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Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Cited on Dialogue With U.S., Intifadah

JN1007183689 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 9 Jul 89 p 3

[By Deputy Chief Editor Wajih Abu-Dhikra]

[Text] Tunis—Yasir 'Arafat has stated that the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue is important and necessary but is proceeding very slowly and remains at a low level for the 6th consecutive month.

In statements to AL-AKHBAR, 'Arafat said: I am afraid that the purpose of this dialogue is to gain time and give Shamir the opportunity to strike against the Palestinian intifadah [uprising] in the occupied territory.

'Arafat said: Shamir's recent statements and his adoption of Sharon's ideas concerning the "Israeli no's" confirm the PLO's analysis of the U.S. position, which is to give Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir the time and opportunity to strike against the intifadah.

'Arafat said: What is the U.S. Administration's response to Shamir's statements and to Sharon's ideas, which Shamir adopted? These statements fully contradict the five points declared by the U.S. President concerning Israel's security, territory for peace, ending Israeli occupation, and convening the international conference. They also contradict U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's call for Israel to withdraw from the occupied Arab territory.

'Arafat said with anger: What is happening now is that the U.S Administration is backing Shamir and his policy and ignoring the Palestinian peace initiative, which was endorsed by the recent Arab summit conference in Casablanca. Most articles in this initiative were also supported by 130 countries.

To demonstrate the complete U.S. bias toward Israel, 'Arafat said that the U.S. Administration has used the veto many times in the UN Security Council against resolutions that the council could have issued against the oppressive Israeli policy, the savage practices against our people in the occupied territory, and the ugly crimes committed daily against the Palestinian people in the occupied territory.

'Arafat continued his angry remarks against the U.S. position. He spoke with great pain about the U.S. position supporting Shamir's policy in a very important humanitarian question—the issue of Palestinians' human rights in the occupied territory. Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, said: I wish to ask how can the U.S. Administration accept and support elections in Namibia under UN supervision and not accept such a thing in Palestine.

With an angry voice, 'Arafat said: The United States—which made a great fuss about human rights in the PRC because of an internal PRC problem that lasted for 1 day only in one of the squares in the PRC capital, Beijing, and which interfered in the PRC's internal affairs—completely ignores the human rights that have been violated daily throughout 20 months of the intifadah staged by the Palestinian people.

Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] said: The U.S. Administration is concerned about human rights in all countries in the world. The United States is concerned about self-determination for all peoples in the world except the Palestinians.

During this interview, I felt that 'Arafat is greatly pained. I also felt that he is very pessimistic about the positivity of the U.S. dialogue. At the same time, I feel that this dialogue must continue. I feel, as many Palestinians do, that most cards of the "game" are in U.S. hands.

I said to Abu-'Ammar: In view of the importance of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, there is more than one Palestinian group holding, or trying to hold, dialogue with the Americans. Why does the PLO not form a Palestinian group, which it would announce as the group charged with the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue?

The president of the state of Palestine said: We have formed a Palestinian working group under Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh. It is the group officially charged with holding dialogue with U.S. officials, and there is no official dialogue except this one. We do not recognize any other dialogue unless it is officially authorized by the PLO.

I said: What happened during the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue?

He said: We have listened to their viewpoint and we informed them of our viewpoint. We then asked them certain questions and we asked for answers. So far, the U.S. Administration has not answered the Palestinian questions.

I said: What were these questions?

Abu-'Ammar said: These were the questions that we asked the U.S. Administration:

—Is the U.S. Administration committed to the agreement reached between me and that administration through the Syrian mediator?

—Is the U.S. Administration committed to the achievement of peace in the region according to international resolutions, including UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338?

—Is the U.S. Administration still committed to solving the hot issues in the world in agreement with the Soviet Union, including the Palestine question?

—Why does the United States find solutions to many problems in the world but not the Palestine question? It found a solution to the Afghan problem, the Iraq-Iran war, Cyprus, Latin America, and Namibia. So why does it not find a solution to the Palestine problem?

Visibly pained, 'Arafat said: We asked all these questions and to date have not heard an answer. Why is that? Because the U.S. Administration is not interested in promoting a just solution to the Palestinian cause.

'Arafat went on: On the other hand, the United States is interested in giving every support possible to Israel; it encourages Israel to maintain occupation and aggression against the Palestinian people.

Raising his voice, 'Arafat said: The question is now directed to the entire Arab nation rather than just the Palestinian people and revolution. I ask them what they have done to the Palestinian initiative.

I said to 'Arafat: I thought the Casablanca summit would come up with a clear-cut plan under which each president is assigned a certain role, each according to his relations, capabilities, and contacts.

'Arafat said: The Palestinian initiative is well defined. As for the role of the kings and heads of state, it has been agreed upon. King Hassan of Morocco was charged with forming a follow-up committee at the head-of-state level. King Hassan will form this committee.

'Arafat added: The Palestinian initiative has ceased to be a Palestinian affair; it is now an Arab one.

I said to Yasir 'Arafat: The past few weeks have seen Israel escalate repression of Palestinians in the occupied land. What do you think?

'Arafat said: It must be said that the United States gave Yizhaq Shamir the green light to press on with his bestial repression of the Palestinians people. At the urging of Rabin, the Americans have given him until the end of 1989 to crush the intifadah.

'Arafat said: I deeply regret to say that the U.S. Administration has gone along with the Israeli scheme. Indeed the United States is even promoting and sponsoring it. I am unambiguously accusing the American Administration.

I had a feeling of apprehension for the intifadah. This information has been revealed by a head of state and commander of a revolution. So I asked Abu-'Ammar: Do you see Israel succeeding in that?

Abu-'Ammar said: You may recall Rabin said on 19 December 1988 in the United States that he would quell the intifadah in 2 days. When I read Rabin's statement, I dared him him to finish the intifadah and gave him 2 days, 2 weeks, 2 months, and even 2 years.

Abu-'Ammar said: And now I defy Sharon and Shamir. I am defying the undertakings they gave to the U.S. Administration that they will put it down by 1989. They will not succeed even if they had all the time in the world, despite their murderous escalation of violence against our people.

I asked Yasir 'Arafat: What is this strange story about an American being detained in the Gaza Strip and released 10 hours later followed by the assassination of whoever had detained him?

'Arafat said: After the American was detained, the U.S. ambassador in Tunis approached the PLO with an official request in which the United States asked the PLO to work toward releasing the U.S. citizen who had been detained in the Gaza Strip. Immediately, contact was made with our individuals inside [the occupied territories] and we found out what had happened. We managed to release him. The PLO found out that the Israeli intelligence, the Mosad, was behind his kidnapping to create further conflicts between the PLO and the United States, just like the Lavon affair in Cairo in 1955, when Mosad elements were sent to Cairo and Alexandria to attack U.S. bases. When the Mosad found that the PLO had learned the truth, they killed the Palestinian youth who had held him.

Abu-'Ammar said: We managed to release the American 24 hours before the U.S. submitted its official request. Unfortunately, so far we have not had a word of thanks from the United States for our efforts. Moreover, U.S. journalists in Islamabad asked me to mediate on their behalf with Afghan President Najibullah to release a colleague of theirs—a U.S. journalist—held by the Afghan authorities. I contacted the Afghan president. He accepted my request and released him. After he was released, the U.S. ambassador in Islamabad stated that they—that is the United States—had not asked Yasir 'Arafat to do that. It is as though he is condemning the release of the American journalist.

'Arafat said emotionally: I answer this ambassador for the first time through AL-AKHBAR newspaper. The joy of this U.S. citizen's mother when she learned the news of his release is enough for me. The U.S. Administration does not know the ways of the Palestinian leadership, except when it wants something. In Beirut, they contacted me to secure the evacuation of U.S. nationals. They also contacted me to mediate with Iran over the release of the American hostages in Tehran.

I told the president of the state of Palestine: The Palestinian intifadah these days is developing very fast. After the stones came the knife. Then, came the incident of hurling the bus with all its passengers. I fear the worst—that this development will give Israel the excuse to carry out a massacre of the Palestinian people.

Abu-'Ammar said: In light of the Israeli military escalation against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and of the Israeli settlers' crimes, I can offer no guarantee whatsoever that our people will not escalate things and use weapons to defend themselves, despite the fact that the Palestinian decisions issued to our people in the occupied territories asked them to pratice self-restraint. However, the Israeli crimes, the escalation that took place today, and Shamir's adoption of all of Sharon's ideas only reveal the dimensions of the whole plan that the Israeli leadership is preparing against our children, women, and people in the occupied territories.

Abu-'Ammar said: Now, nobody can prophesy how far things will go.

The interview with Yasir 'Arafat had ended. The interview lasted from 0100 to 0300 at his place of residence in the Tunisian capital.

PLO Asks U.S. To Adopt New Policies for Peace

JN1007153089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1445 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] Tunis, 10 Jul (INA)—The PLO Executive Committee has called on the U.S. Administration to adopt new bases for settlement based on an "Israeli" withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and enabling the Palestinian people to practice their right to self-determination, up to the establishment of their independent state.

In a statement issued here today, the PLO Executive Committee said that the U.S. Administration must be convinced that the policy of the "Israeli" Government and its extremism cannot be a basis for the peace process in the region. It also asserted the need for the United States to commit itself to new bases to provide security and peace to all countries in the region and to convene the international conference for peace with the attendance of the UN Security Council's permanent member states.

The statement asserted the need to view seriously the Palestinian peace initiative, which the statement described as a sound basis for starting the peace process in view of the support it enjoys from the international community.

The statement stated that the U.S. Administration's silence over the oppressive "Israeli" practices against the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied Arab territories aims to strike against the Palestinian intifadah [uprising] and sell Yitzhaq Shamir's plan, which rejects the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, the establishment of their independent state, the halting of settlement, and any discussion of the subject of holy Jerusalem.

The statement renewed its welcome of the EC countries' stand for the positive positions included in the Madrid summit's statement toward the Palestinian people's rights and the peace process in the Middle East. It also welcomed the statement issued by the Warsaw Pact summit, which supports the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state which asserts the need to convene the international conference for peace in the Middle East with the attendance of the PLO on an equal footing with other sides to the conflict in its capacity as the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative.

PLO Issues Press Release

LD1007223689 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] The PLO issued a press release yesterday following meetings that its executive committee held with Palestinian leaders on 7 and 8 July in Tunis, in which it called on the United States to adopt new peace foundations for the Middle East.

The communique states that Israeli policy aims at harming the Palestinian intifadah [uprising], and cannot form the basis for a peace process at a time when the international community still considers the Palestinian initiative as the practical basis for peace in the region.

The Palestinian press release recalls the resolutions of the Casablanca summit that adopted a Palestinian peace plan, and recalled the Madrid summit communique.

The press release calls for the speedy formation of the Arab committee, adopted by the Casablanca summit, in order to embark on contacts and liaison with world powers, and provide greater coordination among Arab sides that are directly involved in the international conference.

PLO Magazine Cited on U.S. 'Responsibility'

JN0707204289 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1850 GMT 7 Jul 89

["Text" of editorial in FILASTIN AL-THAWRAH, "the central organ of the PLO," entitled: "Enough American Israel"—date not given]

[Text] Why is the intifadah [uprising] continuing and why is the bestial Israeli killing of our children and sons escalating?

This question may sound somewhat strange. The Palestinians are leading the battle for independence, the liberation of the land, and the building of the independent Palestinin state whose capital will be Jerusalem. The Israeli occupiers are opening fire, killing women and children to realize an obsolete dream. The entire world will testify that this dream has ended, that it has gone, never to return, and that the playing the tune of the 6-day war has been forgotten in the history of the Middle East and the memory of its peoples. Indeed, this Israeli victory was no more than a blunder in history, which contains unjust, flagrant blunders that live for a while but do not endure because they lack deep roots in history and the land.

It may sound strange for us to wonder about this sanguinary, bloodletting escalation in the Palestinian battle over this long period of time. The intifadah is now beginning its 19th month and is able to continue for 20 years. However, this continuation will not seem strange as long as the United States does not call for the complete, absolute, and decisive self-determination for the Palestinian people, just like other peoples of the world. The bullets that kill Palestinian children are American bullets. Even the blood that flows in the veins of the Israeli State is also American blood.

Let us set aside restraints imposed on us and on the U.S. Administration by diplomatic considerations, being engaged in a slow dialogue and using beautiful phrases. The United States did not start dialogue with the PLO just because it is a superpower, concerned with world peace and security. The U.S.-Palestinian dialogue reflects the responsibility of the United States for Israel in terms of security, armaments, politics, morality, and finance. Even the bullets that the Israeli settlers fire are U.S. bullets.

This dialogue is being conducted with the decisionmaker and not a mediator, referee, or international superpower. However, the U.S. Administration is dealing with us as a mediator, referee, or a superpower and not a decisionmaker. Therefore, the U.S. Administration is pretending to take proposals from both sides into consideration. It is regarding the farcical elections as a realistic, practical way of stopping the intifadah without enabling the Palestinian people to wrest ther self-determination and independent state.

The United States does not place the Middle East at the head of hot international issues. It believes that with this unlimited U.S. support, Israel will be able to contain the intifadah, break the Palestinian will, and transform the demands for full independence into an acceptance of a self-administered autonomy.

In the presence of Husni Mubarak, President Bush spoke of ending the Israeli occupation. James Baker also said that Israel should abandon the dreams of Greater Israel. However, Dennis Ross, director of the Policy Planning Staff of the U.S. State Departmemt, holds the view that the PLO has not offered all it should. Mr Ross proposes that the PLO accept the election plan as Shamir presented it without alteration. He is certain that the plan will realize peace.

But of what peace is Mr Ross speaking? Is it the peace of continuous occupation, or the peace of the independent Palestinian state? Mr Ross is aware that the election plan will never lead to the independent state. It is a diabolical formula, whose main drafters included Ross himself. His aim was to avert realizing self-determination for the Palestinian people. Therefore, the Shamir election plan cannot pass from the Palestinian standpoint, and we have no doubt that this plan will fall as the occupation itself has fallen. Moreover, we have no fear of Shamir's intransigence, Sharon's obstinacy, or Rabin's stubborness. This is an outdated, decaying commodity not fit to peddle in the Palestinian market.

The intransigent and stubborn one is the U.S. side, which fears for Israel if there is Palestinian independence. However, this is a U.S. problem, and we are absolutely unprepared to respond to this U.S. fear, which only reflects U.S. apprehensions over the failure of the U.S. plan to dominate the Middle East by means of this diabolical military base—namely, Israel.

But where is it written that we must sacrifice our interests, rights, and homeland at the altar of American interests? Forty years of humiliation and catastrophe are enough. Five Palestinian generations have now stood up to tell the United States: Enough is enough. Enough killing of this people who have the right to the land.

We are told that the elections proposal will lead to the realization of our objectives, if only the long-term ones. But why is it that they do not accept the achievement and recognition of these goals now if their intentions are genuine? And why do they not accept for Palestine what they consented and agreed to in Namibia? They want the intifadah to wind down before its goals are realized. And then they want, away from the stones of the intifadah, to formulate the Palestinian reality, present and future, to suit their interests, liking, and strategy. We therefore say that it is the U.S. Administration that is blocking a true peace in Palestine and the Middle East because it wants to promote a peace that advances the interests of its base, Israel. What encourages Israel to pursue the killing and slaughter of our masses and kinfolk? It is the U.S. refusal to recognize Palestinian self-determination and statehood.

We must be absolutely clear with the U.S. Administration as called for by the interests of our people, homeland, and the blood of our masses. The U.S. Administration must renounce the illusion harbored by Dennis Ross that self-rule may be acceptable to the Palestinian people—not for 1 day. The Americans must realize that it is they rather than the Likud or the settlers who are to blame for the stubborness of Shamir, Sharon, and Rabin. The Americans must accept that their kind of solutions to the Palestinian question have been proved untenable and superseded. It is not for the intifadah to prepare for a solution as Dennis Ross seems to think. The intifadah has imposed the Palestinian solution and toppled all the solutions and alternatives that serve Israel and its continued occupation. Undoubtedly, for the United States to continue to bypass Palestinian self-determination and statehood is a major support for Israel's occupation and oprression of our striving children in the occupied territory.

Yesterday, Europe came out in favor of PLO participation in the international conference and declared that the conference is the only route to peace and that elelctions must be in the context of an overall settlement. The United States, however, keeps a tight lip over these positive developments in the European stand. Washington prefers to pursue long-dead policies.

We think that the United States is to be held accountable for all the killings, slaughter, occupation, settlement, fascism, and racism against our people. Short of a shift in American policies on the European lines, the American military barracks, otherwise known as Israel, will continue to use bullets and poison gas and to kill children and women until the despotic regime collapses under the will of the Palestinians.

The situation in Palestine is terrible indeed. The settlers are toting their guns and opening fire with the occupation army directing their gangs to take revenge on our heroic uprisers, while Shamir, the phony dove, is adopting a military plan that will prove his inevitable downfall as the Lebanon war brought about the downfall of Menahem Begin.

The daily horrors and crimes committed by Israel would not have been possible if the United States had not provided the weapons and funds and refused to grant self-determination and statehood. The United States, which backs the projected elections, has yet to answer the questions posed by our masses—the question of the inevitability of Israeli withdrawal from our occupied land. It is up to the United States to answer the question of the masses concerning our right to self-determination and statehood. The United States, failing to give an affirmative answer to these two questions, is approaching the crisis with the object of containing it. The United States is awaiting the triumph of the occupation army over the masses of the intifadah—an impossible outcome.

Accordingly, we urge the masses of the intifadah to display further tenacity, defiance, and closure of ranks to abort the Israeli and American maneuvers. Until Bush and Baker tell Israel—America's army in the Middle East—to stop the killing, self-determination and statehood shall remain as sacrosanct for the Palestinians as they are for all the nations of the earth.

PLO Radio Commentary Views Bus Incident

JN0807080789 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1734 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] O masses of our heroic people in the burning homeland. O giant generations and youths in revolt. O heroes of the strike forces, youth commitees, and popular army formations. O brave men of the popular committees and [word indistinct]. O brothers and sisters in the federations, unions, societies, and national institutions. The rancourous and racist utterances and threats launched by Herzog, president of the enemy state; Yitzhaq Shamir, prime minister; Shim'on Peres; Bar-Lev; and others in the wake of the bus incident on the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv road are only a black echo of the rancorous resolutions adopted by the Likud Central Committee.

Faysal al-Husayni said that the Likud conference has signed the death certificate of the Shamir elections plan, which was stillborn. The question is: Why do the Zionists (?act) in this way? Why do they become frightened and shocked when a Palestinian youth acts more or less as they act? The Zionists are the ones who sow evil, crimes, violence, killing, and terrorism. Their bullets kill our people—our children and women; turn our houses into ruins and our orchards into ashes; and uproot our kinfolk from their land. Are they not the ones who sow thorns, wounds, evils, and crimes; launch large-scale detention campaigns; storm our people's houses; and impose the siege of hunger and thirst? Is Shamir not the one who incites the (?angry) settlers to attack with their arms like rabid beasts the villages, camps, and cities and to kidnap children and bury them alive? Is Rabin not the one who encourages the abnormal practices of the soldiers of the death groups, the black scorpions, the youths of [words indistinct], the Gush Emunim, Tehiya, Kakh, and [words indistinct] so that they commit their crimes as they wish against our innocent people who [words indistinct] the homeland and against our giant generations on whose flaming wounds the Zionists pour salt and fire? Why then, are the Zionists screaming? Those who sow evil, thorns, and wounds are bound to reap disappointment and [words indistinct]. Fire begets fire; violence begets violence; and hideous crimes only beget a stonger and more comprehensive militant act.

We in the PLO leadership have many times warned the enemy against continuing violence and crimes, disregarding the facts, and burying their heads in the sand. We said that the comprehensive decision of our Palestinian people is the rejection of the occupation. We opened through our political initiatives the doors for international legitimacy so that all this will end and a comprehensive, fair solution will be reached through restoring our rights, achieving our independence, and establishing our independent state.

As the Zionists continue their arrogance, the curse will be upon them. The Zionists who are yelling today have turned their back to common sense and to the entire community that is calling for an international conference, for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, and for the occupation authorities' respect for international charters in their acts against our Palestinian people. We reiterate that the firm facts cannot be avoided in this ugly Zionist way, through the large-scale Zionist terrorism, or through the heinous cries of the leaders of terrorism, rancor, and mad violence in the Zionist entity. The exacerbating conflict discloses through [words indistinct] the fate waiting those Zionists playing with fire and wounds. Every reasonable individual realizes that this random killing of our kinfolk and the series of terrorism against our people will not pass peacefully. These great Palestinian generations—the generations of the sacred Palestinian wrath—will not remain silent when the enemy each day opens 1,000 new wounds in their flesh. All this has become basic fact.

The international community shouts at the Zionist enemy—through the recent Security Council resolution—to immediately stop the crimes, end the deportations, allow the deportees to return, and abide by the Geneva conventions on the treatment of civilians under occupation. Will the Zionists listen to the new call by the international community? Will the Zionist mind understand these basic facts [words indistinct]? Or will those in the Zionist entity remain stubborn, resort to the walls of iron and fire, and continue [word indistinct]?

There are other questions imposed by the situation and addressed to the U.S. Administration, particularly since Shamir disavowed his pledges to them and withdrew what he announced to them [passage indistinct]. The same question is addressed to the Arabs in light of the Zionist enemy's insistence on crimes and the U.S. Administration's insistence on negligence and bias. Where do the Arabs stand? Do they stand on the side of the Palestinians, or do they put pressure on them?

Until the answers are clear, we send our greetings to our heroic people, our giant generations, our strong youths in revolt, the heroes of our strike forces, the popular army formations, and the splendid youth committees. Greetings to them, while escalating the blessed intifadah [uprising] in its 20th month, waging this hard and comprehensive struggle, and illuminating the world's conscience with their strong will, great skills, and huge sacrifices. Our people believe that their victory (?is close) and that defeat of the occupation is inevitable.

Greetings to our heroic people. And God's victory is close.

Bus Incident 'Punctures' U.S. 'Illusion'

JN1007171389 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1612 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers: It was no coincidence but a controversial issue that should be read and analyzed by the U.S. Administration and the fanatic gang led by Shamir, who is impervious to any reading or analysis. This time it involved neither a bomb, machine gun, knife, nor even a stone. It was a heroic kamikaze, the likes of which we have not seen before; it was executed by a youth who had been provoked by oppression and terrorist fanaticism. He was motivated by the slaughter and oppression commited by the military and fanatic Zionists alike.

Bravado and threats, which have not ceased since the eruption of the intifadah [uprising], will be of no avail. This operation coincided with the torpedoing of what the Americans call Shamir's elections initiative when the Zionist prime minister accommodated or capitulated to the Likud committee's four amendments. Here are the lessons to be learned:

First, the American illusion of Israeli moderation has been punctured—more precisely the American attempt to sell the so-called Zionist moderation has failed. Consequently, the Americans who have bet on the so-called initiative have been placed in a vulnerable position. The U.S. Administration in effect remains inimical to the Palestinian people and the PLO.

Second, Shamir's plan has crumbled on two scores: The Palestinians have wised up to the Zionist maneuvering and consequently intensified the intifadah, the liquidation of which the Likud demanded before any step along the road of Shamir's alleged initiative. The heroic operation has demonstrated that no one can tell what our people can do under occupation—either through preplanned action or individual initiatives triggered by excessive Zionist terror.

Third, we are now more convinced than ever that we must escalate our struggle under the leadership of the PLO. It has been proven that the struggle of the masses in the occupied land is bearing fruit daily given the changes it has wrought in the lives of the population. Not only have our people torn down the barrier of fear, but they have also effected such changes in their way of life as to make them totally independent of the occupation. An unstoppable state of comprehensive civil disobedience and popular revolution thus seems to be approaching.

Under these circumstances, Israel's determination to persist with its terror, increased settlement, and slaughter of Palestinians will not relieve Israel's allies led by the United States. The Likud and Israeli leaders along with the stubborn fanatics are swimming against the tide of the opportunities opened by international detente toward the attainment of a comprehensive, just peace. These forces have come up against a brick wall. They are being confronted by hundreds of thousands of steadfast strugglers who are determined not to be daunted.

Algeria

Boualem Bessaieh Views Inter-Arab Topics

PM1007152689 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Jul 89 p 3

[Interview with Foreign Minister Boualem Bessaieh by Zaki Musa in London; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Musa] How do you assess the efforts made by the Arab tripartite committee for settlement of the Lebanese crisis in recent meetings and contacts at Arab and international levels?

[Bessaieh] I can say that over the past period we have been able to identify all aspects of the crisis and the positions of all parties.

[Musa] What is the next step?

[Bessaieh] Movement in the direction of the sides capable of influencing the final decision to establish and consolidate a cease-fire and also to explore the political prospects of a settlement for the Lebanese crisis. The coming period will witness the beginning of a fruitful dialogue among all the Lebanese sides with a view to working out a formula for political and constitutional reform based on justice and equality for all.

[Musa] What mechanism will you use to bring all the Lebanese parties to the negotiating table?

[Bessaieh] It has been agreed, among other things, that an initial meeting of members of the Lebanese chamber of deputies will be held outside Lebanon.

[Musa] Has a venue been named for that meeting?

[Bessaieh] No. It was decided to leave it to the Lebanese to decide the venue.

[Musa] What about a date for the meeting?

[Bessaieh] We hope it will be within the next few weeks. [passage omitted]

[Musa] As foreign ministers [of the tripartite committee states], you have visited Damascus and Baghdad and met with Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Saddam Husayn. What views did they express to you?

[Bessaieh] Both presidents expressed their willingness and pledged to make every possible effort to support the Arab tripartite committee's work so that a solution to the acute crisis can be found.

[Musa] Did President al-Asad, for example, show willingness to withdraw from Lebanon if a solution is achieved and if certain parties make such withdrawal a precondition?

[Bessaieh] It is not a question of withdrawal but rather a question of helping to implement the first phase, namely, consolidation of the cease-fire, followed by work to promote a solution or a political concept for a settlement of the Lebanese crisis through a meeting with the Lebanese parliamentarians. We sensed a spirit of assistance, contribution, and response to the tripartite committee in its endeavor to find a solution.

[Musa] Your meeting with the British officials followed Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal's earlier meeting. What did you discuss with them?

[Bessaieh] My talks with the British officials covered bilateral relations and ways of developing them in all fields. I can say that the results achieved were not bad.

[Musa] Did you raise the question of the Arab tripartite committee's efforts to solve the Lebanese problem?

[Bessaieh] Of course we discussed all international issues, especially the Lebanese question, on which we had lengthy discussions. I noted considerable British interest in the Middle East issues in general, and the Lebanese and Palestinian questions in particular. [passage omitted]

[Musa] You played a prominent part in the efforts to normalize Syrian-PLO relations. What is the state of affairs between the two sides now?

[Bessaieh] The important thing, in my view, is the open dialogue which has begun between the brothers in the PLO and the Syrian leaders. The door is still open for more discussions, which I believe is even more important, and I hope that efforts for a meeting of brothers will continue. There are still some points of disagreement between them but these points have been overtaken by events, and while it would have been difficult for the brothers to come to some agreement 1 or 2 years ago, it is now easy to achieve. [passage omitted]

[Musa] What about Arab Maghreb unity? What point has been reached in the efforts to implement it?

[Bessaieh] They are on course. We do not claim we can build an economic community in a matter of months. What is important is that we have laid the essential foundations for that and the Arab Maghreb Union [UMA] states are making efforts and taking steps in that direction.

We have created an atmopshere of understanding, and everyone who has a say in the building of the Arab Maghreb is obviously responsive. I am certain that we will make progress. The steps may be slow but they are steady.

[Musa] Some time ago the question of having open borders and unified identification cards for the UMA coutries was raised. Anything new on that?

[Bessaieh] These are technical matters which we have left in the hands of technical committees which will study all aspects to avoid any mistakes. The important thing is that there is a political will, and we hope that the technical experts will produce a concept that will enable us to advance on that front. [passage omitted]

Egypt

MENA Cites Mubarak's AL-AHRAM Interview

NC1007220489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2110 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] Cairo, 10 Jul (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has stated that his talks in the French capital next Thursday will deal with the peace issue in the Middle East, the Lebanese problem, the recent revolution in Sudan, and the issue of the debts of the Third World, particularly Africa.

In an interview he gave to Ibrahim Nafi', AL-AHRAM's chief editor, which will be published tomorrow [11 July], President Mubarak noted the importance of convincing the creditor industrial states of the need to reduce high interest on the debts in order to help the debtor countries to repay them and to prevent the possibility of suspending repayment, threatening the flow of capital.

President Mubarak affirmed that France and the United States are in the forefront of world countries which are convinced of the justice of this demand. He said that Egypt's political importance in the region and its ability to move in the Arab and international arenas are the two influential factors which are prompting the countries of the world to assist Egypt.

Regarding the relations with the leaders of the salvation revolution in Sudan, President Mubarak praised its high standard, wishing it further improvement. He affirmed Egypt's continued support for Sudan, either through available Egyptian resources or through Arab and international contacts.

The president said that Egypt's support for the revolution in Sudan stemmed from its principled stand of supporting legitimacy and the Sudanese choice.

The president spoke about important details regarding the actions and positions of former Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi which led to the estrangement that existed before the revolution. The president said that despite Egypt's offers to Al-Mahdi's government, he persisted in leveling accusations against Egypt. He went as far as attributing to it the memorandum which the Sudanese Armed Forces officers had submitted to him to repair the deteriorating situation. The president said that when Al-Mahdi demanded that Numayri be returned to stand trial and be executed, he emphasized to him that the Egyptian Constitution does not allow this. Furthermore, the leaders of what was called the uprising had rejected Numayri's return when they were asked by the President whether they wanted that. President Mubarak revealed Al-Mahdi's real position toward Egypt's mediation with Ethiopian leader Mengistu. He said that Al-Mahdi did not come more than once to the meetings which Mengistu always was willing to have. Hence, President Mubarak had a profound feeling that something would happen in Sudan as a result of the continued deterioration of the situation from bad to worse.

Referring to the development of the relations between Egypt and Syria and Libya and whether there is a possibility for the resumption of relations soon, President Mubarak affirmed that his relations with President Hafiz al-Asad and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi are good. He said that the rumors about a meeting in Cairo with Col al-Qadhdhafi were not correct. An agreement was reached to hold a meeting in any place when something develops that requires such a meeting. As for the resumption of the relations, the president explained Egypt's principled position on this issue, saying it is up to Syria and Libya. It does not affect Egypt's dealings with its Arab sisters, which goes beyond formalities.

President Mubarak said that Egypt is currently waiting for Israel's response to the reservations it made regarding some points in Shamir's initiative. He noted that the PLO and even the United States have specific reservations. The Likud Party met, and it seems that it finally submitted to the hardline faction. The question now is: Does this mean a change in the initiative which the Israeli Government has launched. If so, this means that the idea of elections has been torpedoed.

The president called on Israeli leaders to abandon intransigence and to focus their attention on the peace issue. Bloodshed on the Arab side or the Israeli side must not be allowed to continue daily. This is human blood. We are the ones who can control the situation. Peace will win in the end. The president said that he will discuss this subject with all the states and in all the international forums in the future.

The president said that Egypt is following with interest the conduct of Iranian policy after Khomeyni toward the Arab states. He stressed that if Iran again tries to interfere in the internal affairs of others with violence and distrubances, its policies will fail.

President Mubarak expressed his great appreciation for the efforts which the leaders of the OAU have exerted to deal with numerous problems. He described the African organization as one of the best existing international organizations which enjoys the respect of the world. He said that 40 heads of African states hold their annual meeting to discuss various subjects of interest, and this will resolve misunderstandings they may have had. The president said that he will do his utmost during his 1 year term as president of the organization to solve the problem of debts and strengthen Arab-African cooperation. The president will leave to attend the African summit in Addis Ababa on 23 July.

Israeli Government Official Arrives in Cairo

NC0907202689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1956 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] Cairo, 9 Jul (MENA)—Eli Rubinstein, secretary general of the Israeli Government, arrived in Cairo tonight for a 1-day visit to Egypt.

Meets 'Abd-al-Majid, Comments

NC1007140089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1302 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] Cairo, 10 Jul (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met today with Eli Rubinstein, secretary general of the Israeli Government, who is currently visiting Cairo.

Rubinstein said after the meeting the Israeli Government's plan for holding elections in the occupied territories still stands. He pointed out that Likud's recent resolutions are being considered as party decisions issued by a political party, not as resolutions by the Israeli Government.

He said he had acquainted himself with Egypt's view of the efforts to consolidate peace in the region.

Rubinstein arrived in Cairo Sunday for a visit of several days.

'Abd-al-Majid's Remarks

NC1007140489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1329 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] Cairo, 10 Jul (MENA)—Egypt has notified the Israeli Government that the new conditions attached to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's plan for holding elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip place new obstacles to the peace process and that these conditions will increase tension in the occupied Arab territories, escalate acts of violence, and jeopardize the entire peace process.

This was stated by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, who said that the Israeli Government was informed of Egypt's position during his meeting today with Eli Rubinstein, secretary general of the Israeli Government, and Shim'on Shamir, Israeli ambassador in Cairo.

Editorial on Israeli Violence Over Bus Incident

JN1007162189 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 8 Jul 89 p 6

[Editorial: "The Policy of Oppression and the River of Violence"]

[Text] Violence inside the occupied territories has escalated following the Israeli bus incident in which 14 Israelis were killed and 20 injured in a suicidal attempt followed by a series of violence and oppressive measures exceeding all human limits. Undoubtedly, this incident, which brings confrontations in the occupied territories to a new and dangerous stage, occurred as a result of the desperation that seized the youth and made him sacrifice himself to draw the attention of the whole world to his cause. This cause is no longer simply that of territories occupied by foreign forces. It now represents a prime example, previously unknown to the world, of state terrorism and of ignoring the Geneva conventions on the treatment of civilians under occupation. Suffice it to cite, for example, the Israeli figures on the intifadah [uprising] during its 19th month: More than 500 martyrs; thousands of injured; and detainees are crowding the prisons which, at the same time, have been transformed to cells instigating new young members to become active in the intifadah.

As for Yitzhaq Shamir, instead of looking around him to contemplate calmly that the timing of this bus incident coincided with the changes introduced by the Likud into its election plan, which voided it of its content or any hope of amending it or setting it within the framework of a just and comprehensive peace, he spits out fiery statements threatening to avenge and crush those who committed the act and those who sent them to carry it out. This simply means further detentions and violence accompanied by demolishing homes, burning crops, detaining youths, depriving citizens of their simplest human rights, and issuing a new list of deportees.

World public opinion wonders about the effectiveness of the U.S. Administration's informing Israel of its opposition to Israeli policy in the occupied territories and deportation of Palestinians as long as the U.S. Administration is Israel's only supporter in the Security Council, protecting it from condemnation no matter how toned down they are.

Hesitation in the U.S. handling of this cause, which threatens world security and peace, is the simple reason behind the Shamir government's continuation of its policy of oppression, violence, stubborness, and closing its ears to just and reasonable solutions. Therefore, we say that if the river of violence is allowed to flood, it will lead to disaster.

Ghali Confers With PLO's 'Abd-Rabbuh 10 Jul

NC1007111389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1040 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] Cairo, 10 Jul (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, met today with the Palestinian delegation now visiting Cairo led by Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member. The talks during the meeting dealt with developments in the Palestinian issue, Egyptian diplomatic efforts to move the peace process forward, and the call for an international conference for peace in the Middle East.

During the meeting, Dr Ghali reiterated Egypt's firm support for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to defend their rights in the occupied land and condemned the arbitrary Israeli practices aimed at dealing a blow to the intifadah [uprising].

'Abd-Rabbuh Comments, Departs

NC1107102289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0940 GMT 11 Jul 89

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jul (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh left Cairo this morning following a 4-day visit to Egypt during which he met with Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs.

'Abd-Rabbuh stated that the brothers in Egypt affirmed to the Palestinian delegation that the issues of Middle East peace and the Palestinian people's legitimate rights are at the top of the agenda for President Husni Mubarak's forthcoming visit to Paris.

The Palestinian official added that the PLO highly appreciates the honorable nationalist stand Egypt has adopted under President Husni Mubarak's leadership in supporting the popular intifadah [uprising] and Egypt's general stance on the Palestinian cause.

Concerning the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, the head of the Palestinian delegation pointed out that the United States is now being urged more than ever before to adopt an appropriate stand to put an end to the Israeli Government's policy of terrorism and repression against Arab citizens. He said that the Likud's decisions obstruct the peace process.

Muslim Brotherhood's Al-Hudaybi Interviewed

PM0707152489 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 7 Jul 89 p 31

[Interview with Counselor Ma'mun al-Hudaybi, head of Muslim Brotherhood parliamentary group, by Usamah 'Ajaj in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] AL-HAWADITH: It seems that the [Socialist] Labor Party [SLP] always used to follow the line agreed by the opposition parties in Egypt. But the situation was totally different in the recent Consultative Council elections: The party agreed to enter the elections, whereas the Wafd Party and the [National Progressive Unionist] Grouping [NPUG] refused to do so. Some are blaming that decision on the Muslim Brotherhood, their partners in the alliance. How would you comment on that?

Al-Hudaybi: We must fully realize that the decision to enter the Consultative Council elections was agreed by the alliance parties. There were no differing views between the Muslim Brotherhood, the SLP, or the Liberal Party. I will be telling no secrets if I say that the SLP—and specifically its leader, Ibrahim Shukri—is always eager to engage in battles. And he had a clear intention to enter the local council elections. He was eager to enter the Consultative Council elections, despite the known and unknown risks repeated in every election. We consult with the SLP and the Liberal Party on all steps. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: We come now to the election campaign problem, in which predominance was given to the Muslim Brotherhood's slogans hailing Islam as the solution and which cited none of the slogans of the other two alliance parties, the SLP and the Liberal Party.

Al-Hudaybi: With regard to the campaign, it must be understood that what links us to the SLP and the Liberal Party is an alliance, not a merger—an alliance of independent entities drawing up a joint program while each party retains its own entity. In a merger the intrinsic element of each entity dissolves and a single body is formed under a single leadership that makes a single decision. With regard to the campaign issue, we were anxious not to confine it to a leaflet, slogan, or banner. It was a participation and dealings with the masses, because the parties' boycotting of elections always causes people abandon hopes for change. But our participation had a meaning; namely, dealing and uniting with the people in order to motivate them to defend their interests.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you not believe that the dispute within the opposition and their conflicting views over participation in the elections will have a negative impact on the opposition movement's subsequent coordination?

Al-Hudaybi: Let us acknowledge there is an alliance governing the actions of its members—the Muslim Brotherhood, the Liberal Party, and the SLP. They agreed on a single platform before the 1987 election. But consultation with the other opposition parties is for coordination. With regard to the freedoms issues, although we may agree with a party such as the NPUG in its defense of freedoms and the political groupings' right to express themselves, coordination with it cannot be a general line, because of the differing orientations. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: All indications show that the Muslim Brotherhood had a hand in the split occurring within the SLP.

Al-Hudaybi: We played no part in what happened. But probably the alliance has boosted the Islamic tendency within the SLP. I ask you: When did 'Adil Husayn assume the position of chief editor of the newspaper AL-SHA'B?

AL-HAWADITH: Some time before the People's Assembly elections.

Al-Hudaybi: This simply means there has always been a strong Islamic tendency within the SLP, even before thinking of joining an alliance with the Muslim Brotherhood. Some leaders held the post of chief editor of the party's mouthpiece before the People's Assembly was dissolved, before the elections were held, and even before thinking about forming an alliance, especially since the first idea in the 1987 elections was to contest the elections on a unified list under the Wafd's name. The facts are clear: They all confirm that there was an Islamic tendency promoting a certain approach. That tendency grew stronger before the elections. And if it entered an alliance under the slogan "Islam is the solution," and if that slogan achieved a victory undreamed of by any other alliance party—thus affecting the situation within the SLP—that is natural and is no reasons for accusing the Muslim Brotherhood of being behind the party's split.

AL-HAWADITH: There has been a negative response to your call for the establishment of a party for the Copts, giving rise to fears of sectarian sensitivities, especially as the church leadership refuses to establish a party for the Copts.

Al-Hudaybi: Let us assume that there are Coptic parties, in the sense that the Coptic sects are represented by entities chosen by them and have leaderships under which they work. By entities I mean those which act as parties—religious parties which preserve the Copts' faith. But the Christian faith separates politics and religion: "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." But the situation is different in the Islamic religion, which organizes people's lives both economically and socially. It has both criminal law and civil law. God compels us to rule by the shari'a. As for the Copts, they are probably not expected to do that. So politics is part of my religion and we have no absolute politics, but we must regulate life according to God's law.

AL-HAWADITH: Some understood your call as a kind of bargaining to secure approval for the establishment of a Muslim Brotherhood party.

Al-Hudaybi: Let me ask you: Who will approve the establishment of parties? Is it not Interior Minister Major General Zaki Badr?

AL-HAWADITH: Not only him; there is also the Party Committee, of which he is a member.

Al-Hudaybi: I know that. It includes Consultative Council Chairman Dr 'Ali Lafi, who did not deny his affiliation to the National Democratic Party [NDP]; the People's Assembly minister, who is also the NDP deputy secretary general; the justice minister; and three jurists who have reached retirement age. Any meeting not attended by the ministers is considered null and void. So I have to seek NDP approval for the establishment of a party which it opposes.

AL-HAWADITH: Does that mean that the Muslim Brotherhood has completed all procedures and prepared the program?

Al-Hudaybi: That is the easiest part of the matter. Do you think we will be unable to secure 50 founders for the party? We are ready to secure 50,000 representing all categories: doctors, universities professors, workers, and farmers. Drawing up a program is easy too. We will not encounter any problem in drawing up a program which we have promoted for 60 years. I say that the Party Committee is a shameful bunch, because it is unreasonable for Egypt, with all its thinkers, to be unable to draw up a party program acceptable to the Party Committee, which has rejected all the parties which have submitted their papers to it.

AL-HAWADITH: Does the Muslim Brotherhood not bear the burden of the existence of the extremist trends stemming from the "Muslim Brotherhood fold?" It is clear that the Muslim Brotherhood as an enlightened religious trend is not making any efforts to resolve that phenomenon.

Al-Hudaybi: We are not responsible. They did not emerge from the Muslim Brotherhood fold. If that is the criterion, we too can accuse the NDP of the same thing, since its founder, Anwar al-Sadat, was accused of murdering Amin 'Uthman and participated in the assassination attempt against Al-Nahhas before the revolution. Besides, if the principles and the faith are sound, the party or group can in no way be held responsible for the departure from it of an individual or a group of individuals.

There are many Islamic bodies such as Al-Azhar which should play an effective role in handling that phenomenon before questioning the Muslim Brotherhood about it.

Military Production Minister Interviewed

PM0707140489 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 7 Jul 89 p 28

[Interview with Minister of State for Military Production Dr Jamal-al-Din al-Sayyid Ibrahim by Usamah 'Ajaj in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] AL-HAWADITH: The Military Production Ministry's latest activity was its participation in the first Baghdad arms exhibition. Could you tell us the real benefit of such exhibitions?

Al-Sayyid: Actually our participation in the Baghdad exhibition was not a first. We have organized special exhibitions for our military products in Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates. We also organize an international arms exhibition in Egypt every 3 years—most recently in 1987. As for the benefit of these exhibitions, they show Egypt's ability to supply arms to those who seek them from the Arab and friendly states; its ability to provide technical aid, training, and repair services; and its ability to transfer technology to these parties for the purpose of joint manufacture, participation in projects, or assistance in production. Our participation in the Baghdad exhibition confirmed the fact that Egypt has a strong military industrial base backed by a broader general industrial base. In general, we welcome any industry established in the Arab states, because we consider it a kind of integration, since it represents support for Egypt, and we are ready to cooperate with the Arab states and friendly states. This, because we can provide training, export, repair services, technical assistance, and technology transfers. We did not display all our products in Baghdad because of the difficulty of transporting heavy equipment. Besides, we were keen to exhibit purely Egyptian products, not joint products. Our assessment of our participation in the Baghdad exhibition is that it was positive and beneficial.

AL-HAWADITH: Is there a clear overview to present to the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] ministerial committee with regard to whatever concerns the military production field?

Al-Sayyid: We took part in the ACC ministerial meetings in April. The broad guidelines for cooperation in that regard were in fact drawn up. As for the details, they are the responsibility of the committees formed for that purpose. There are contacts in that regard. The first meetings were held to draw up the general framework for cooperation in the industrial field. This, because it is known that military production is a specialized industry and can only advance when backed by a strong and developed industrial base. What has been studied so far is the definition of projects, capital, frameworks, integration, and training. It is essential that this be done from the viewpoint of industrial integration, so that the various sides complement each other's output. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: How can prospects for cooperation between Egypt and Iraq in the military industrialization field be determined?

Al-Sayyid: We began cooperation with Iraq in the early sixties. We took part in the planning of military factories. So the industry there is quite similar to the Egyptian planning, which is why its is easy to exchange information and to cooperate. This, because the two experiments are proceeding in a parallel direction, in addition to the fact that there is common ground. When Iraq needed weapons, we provided them with all that they requested, on the basis of Egypt's conviction that the Iraqis had a real desire for peace and were defending their country. Now we provide them with certain production requirements. Cooperation is continuing. To start with we used to supply them with fully-finished products, but now we export to them half-finished products or parts for them to complete.

AL-HAWADITH: Recent Western reports indicate that Egypt has backtracked from its project for the production of the advanced U.S. M1A1 tank. What is the truth of the matter?

Al-Sayyid: I can confirm to you the continuation of the Egyptian plans for the production of the M1 tank. The Egyptian factory allocated for the production of that tank is nearing completion. At present Egyptian tanks are overhauled there. There is no truth in the reports that Egypt has changed its mind about producing the tank—which confirms that we are steadfastly proceeding with the military industrialization strategy. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Can you comment on the outcry stirred up over the existence of military chemical industries in Egypt?

Al-Sayyid: That outcry was fabricated. We do not produce chemical weapons. We only manufacture the defensive equipment for chemical warfare, such as masks, protective clothing, and decontamination equipment.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you not believe that the Middle Eastern and African states are the major importers of Egyptian arms? Are there any problems facing the export of arms?

Al-Sayyid: We have certain morals about weapons exports. The political decisionmakers control sale and export operations. The objective is to support the Arab and friendly states. It is necessarily a commercial objective. Despite this, international statistics show that the Middle East spends more than other regions on arms imports. As for Africa, with regard to some states, we are now in a "confidence-gaining stage." However, we have passed that stage with other states. There are some states which are seeking to acquaint themselves with the various types of weapons through demonstrations. In general, we are ready to export weapons within the framework of pursuing our strategy whose objective, as I said, is to support the Arab and friendly states through technology, training, and repair services.

AL-HAWADITH: There was a steel production project with Arab partnership. What stage has been reached in that regard?

Al-Sayyid: The project was supposed to be set up in the 10 Ramadan City, and it is proceeding as planned, with Arab partnership. But there are many types, forms, and sizes of special steel. Joint studies are being conducted to determine the specifications and measurements for that steel.

AL-HAWADITH: What is the latest news about the project for the manufacture of the Sinai-23 defense system?

Al-Sayyid: We have actually produced a prototype, and we have been asked to produce other prototypes for testing in the field. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Cabinet Members Take Oath Before Al-Bashir

NC1007200089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1839 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] Khartoum, 10 Jul (MENA)—Members of the new Sudanese Government took the Constitutional oath before Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, head of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], and members of the Council this evening.

Foreign Minister 'Ali Sahlul, Minister of Energy and Mining Eng 'Abd-al-Mun'im, and Minister of Relief Peter (Ourat) did not take the oath because they are out of the country.

After taking the oath, 'Ali Zaki, minister of finance and economic planning, disclosed that his ministry's plan is to start reviewing the new budget for the year 1989-90. He said his ministry will submit budget proposals to the Council of Ministers and to the RCC at the earliest possible opportunity once the revision has been completed.

Dr Faruq al-Bishri, minister of trade, cooperation, and supply, said his ministry's primary aim is to fight corruption, procure essential commodities for the public, and disengage the ministry and the other authorities responsible for distributing supply items.

For his part, Minister of Health Dr Shakir al-Sarraj said his ministry aims primarily to work out a swift salvation program to remedy the declining health situation, provide medicine, improve hospitals, and give attention to environment. He said this swift salvation program will be implemented through aid from the Arab brothers.

Ministers' Meeting Planned

EA1007192589 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] The Council of Ministers of the National Salvation Front government will hold its first meeting tomorrow, Tuesday, at 1100 [0900 GMT] under the chairmanship of Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council [RCC] and prime minister, at the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers. The ministers swore the oath of allegiance before the members of the RCC and the chairman of [words indistinct].

Addressing the ministers, Lt Gen 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, expressed his confidence in them and thanked them for responding to the call of duty. After the swearing-in ceremony a radio correspondent interviewed some of the ministers who spoke about the future and of their determination to do their best for the country. Dr Shakir Sarrah said that he would work to implement an urgent health services program. He said the program could be implemented soon.

Governors, National Security Consultant Named

EA1007170189 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] The Revolutionary Command Council [RCC] for National Salvation has appointed the following as regional governors:

1. Major General al-Tahir Muhammad 'Uthman—Northern Region.
2. Major General 'Abd-al-Wahab 'Abd-al-Ra'uf—Central Region.
3. Major General Bakri Almak Musa—Eastern Region.
4. Major General 'Awadallah Muhammad al-Fatih—Kordofan.
5. Major General Bab al-Khatim Ibrahim Muhammad—Darfur.

In the southern regions, the present Army commanders will continue as governors pending the issuance of a further decree.

The RCC also issued a decree supplementing Decree No 35/1989 on the formation of a cabinet: Brigadier General Ibrahim Nayil Idami appointed consultant for national security.

RCC Spokesman on 'Unity' With 'Specific State'

EA1007170789 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1422 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] Khartoum, 10 Jul (SUNA)—Staff Colonel Sulayman Muhammad Sulayman, member of the Revolutionary Command Council [RCC] for National Salvation and its spokesman that, at this stage it is up to Sudan whether it proceeds towards unity with a specific state. [sentence as received]

He said in a statement to SUNA today: We are now undertaking internal construction to achieve an economic revival at a time when Sudan's people have not been embraced by stable national [wataniyyah] unity.

The official spokesman said that if Sudan, in its current condition, proceeded to enter into any form of unity whatsoever with any other state, then that condition would be a reason for and a determining factor in the weakness of such a unity.

The RCC official spokesman went on to say in his statement: That is why and it is upon this premise that the revolution will concentrate upon adapting [tahy'ah] Sudan politically, economically, and socially in order to make it a strong state.

He said: Thereafter we shall be prepared to engage in consultations and consideration [tafakur] with any Arab or African state about any form of cooperation or unity.

Curfew Hours Reduced in Khartoum 10 Jul

NC1007204589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1830 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] Khartoum, 10 Jul (MENA)—The Central Military Command in Khartoum has decided to reduce curfew hours in the Sudanese capital by 2 hours. The curfew will now start at 2100 in lieu of 1900 and will end at 0430.

Khartoum has begun to witness routine security measures as a result of the calm and stability prevailing in the country.

Al-Mirghani Denies Seeking Asylum in Egypt

PM1107075689 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Jul 89 pp 1-2

[Wahib Muhammad Ghurab, Muhammad Ahmad Hisham, and Mahmud Ka'wash report: "Al-Mirghani Denies Seeking Asylum in Egypt"]

[Excerpt] Khartoum, Jeddah, Athens—Ahmad al-Mirghani, former chairman of the Sudanese State Council, has denied having requested political asylum in Egypt or that he is considering making such a request. This denial by Al-Mirghani, who has been in Greece since shortly before the Sudanese military coup, coincides with reports from Khartoum of urgent measures to form special courts to try political detainees including former Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, whose arrest was announced last Thursday.

Muhammad 'Uthman, the former State Council chairman's private secretary, has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT by telephone from Athens that Ahmad al-Mirghani categorically denies press reports about his seeking political asylum in Egypt, "although he considers all Arab countries to be home for all Arabs."

Al-Mirghani intends to leave Rhodes for Athens tomorrow with his family and aides. His next move is not yet clear. [passage omitted]

Further on Denial

JN1107095689 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 9 Jul 89 pp 1, 6

[Text] A source close to Ahmad al-Mirghani, former chairman of the Sudanese State Council, has denied an Egyptian magazine report on Thursday [6 July] that Al-Mirghani has requested political asylum in Egypt. The source said there is no reason for Al-Mirghani to reside in Egypt as a political refugee. He added that Al-Mirghani is continuing his medical treatment on the Greek island of Rhodes and might visit Egypt. He stressed that Al-Mirghani's palace in Alexandria was not a gift from the Egyptian Government but was bought by 'Ali al-Mirghani, head of the family, and the family has documents proving its possession of the palace. The source added that Al-Mirghani's relationship with Egypt is not linked to the former [Sudanese] regime but is an old historical one.

RCC's Al-Bashir Interviewed 2 Jul

PM0707105889 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 3 Jul 89 p 5

[Telephone interview with Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council for National Salvation, in Khartoum by Muhammad Mahjub in Jeddah on 2 July]

[Text] [Mahjub] First of all, we wish you success in fulfilling the aspirations of the fraternal Sudanese people. Then we would like to ask about your new government's position on Arab relations.

[Al-Bashir] First, I thank you. Before answering your question I wish to express our profound appreciation and gratitude to Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz for the Kingdom's attitude toward Sudan and for wishing us success. We are also very grateful and appreciative of the great initiative of brother President Muhammad Husni Mubarak in recognizing and welcoming the new Sudanese regime and in expressing support for us.

The Saudi Arabian Kingdom's attitude has raised the morale of the Sudanese leadership and people and given them hope that, with the fraternal relations with Saudi Arabia and Egypt, the new regime will move forward and achieve the Sudanese people's objectives.

God willing, we will in the near future send numerous technical delegations to the Arab and friendly states, especially Saudi Arabia, as part of a comprehensive action.

[Mahjub] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, what are your objectives and what are your means of achieving them?

[Al-Bashir] We have many basic objectives covering all fields. In foreign policy we will endeavor to build cordial relations with all brothers, friends, and neighbors, free from blocs and disputes. In economic policy our main aim is to solve Sudan's problems in the development field and to stop Sudan's economic deterioration, particularly since we in Sudan do have the manpower and varied resources but lack the sound leadership needed to ideally exploit and guide them along a sound course. We also aim to charge the Sudanese people's collossal potentials so that they can use the available resources to build the homeland. We also want to provide security and a livelihood for every Sudanese citizen. These are the basics. All the people's needs must be fulfilled and we must use every means and method to meet these needs.

These, generally speaking, are the targets and the objectives we hope to achieve in the interest of Sudan and the Sudanese people. That is why we acted. We acted because, in our view, the former regime in Sudan exposed the homeland to many dangers. We really felt that we were approaching an abyss, so we acted to save Sudan.

[Mahjub] What are your priorities in these objectives that you seek to fulfill?

[Al-Bashir] Our priorities in pursuit of these objectives focus on two extremely important issues: The security issue and the economic issue. Of course, the security issue is most complicated, particularly since vast sectors in Sudan now have major security problems. So security must get top priority.

As regards the second issue—that is, the economic problem—we will do our best to resolve it and fulfill the Sudanese people's legitimate right to a stable economy.

Our first step in the process of economic salvation will be to fight all kinds of corruption, lift the people's morale, revive the economic infrastructures, maintain the existing factories and prepare them for good production, and rebuild existing projects and introduce new projects, God willing. This, in addition to repatriating the evacuees from various parts of Sudan.

[Mahjub] The problem of the south was one of the problems facing the former government and will also be a problem facing your leadership. Will you abandon the peace initiative or do you have a special concept on this matter?

[Al-Bashir] First of all, we will not abandon peace. Peace is our first option, but we believe that peace comes through negotiations, not through a military solution—whatever the military superiority—because a military solution cannot be a final solution. On the problem of the south our aim is to arrive at a final and root solution which can only be achieved through dialogue and understanding.

We hope that, God willing, the dialogue between us and Garang will continue with the help of brothers and friends so that we can find final and radical solutions to this chronic problem. We do not want temporary solutions and sedatives because that would mean that the problem would resurface from time to time.

The purpose of inviting John Garang to Khartoum is to demonstrate goodwill on our part. If anyone—not just Garang—carrying arms came to Khartoum and decided to respond to the new situation in Sudan and to lay down his arms, then we would be willing to receive him and sit down with him to discuss resolving the problems, to negotiate with a view to finding radical solutions that would ensure that no problems would arise in the future. However, if Garang's forces initiate any battles now then the Army and the people will confront them. We have declared that we are for peace through negotiations—not through arms.

[Mahjub] Lt Gen 'Umar, let us return to the current situation in Sudan since you assumed power. Is the situation really stable after your move; and what about the leaflets that have appeared, protesting what has happened in Sudan?

[Al-Bashir] Thank God, the situation has fully stabilized since our assumption of power. The security organs have responded to us positively and have managed to arrest those who tried to distribute the leaflets—who proved to be misguided individuals who did no more than distribute the leaflets. We have also seized the printing machinery and paper in their possession. I can therefore say that this matter is of no consequence whatsoever and does not affect the new situation in Sudan.

[Mahjub] What about Western media claims that former Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has not been arrested yet?

[Al-Bashir] Indeed, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has not been detained. Our information is that he is hiding in Khartoum and has not left it. We have initial information about places where he could be hiding. All suspected locations where he could take refuge in Khartoum or Omdurman are now under surveillance. However, most of the former political leaders have been detained. The search is continuing for those not apprehended at the outset of our move, and they will soon be detained, God willing. The innocent will not be troubled but the guilty will receive their deterrent punishment.

[Mahjub] Does that mean that you expect resistance of some kind?

[Al-Bashir] We do not expect any resistance. It is clear to us beyond any doubt that the former leaderships are completely isolated from their party grass roots. Even if there were any resistance, it would be extremely limited. Their sole concern now is how to escape and leave Sudan. I believe that they are incapable of mounting any resistance at all. That is out of the question.

[Mahjub] That leads us to recent reports about certain militias and the possibility that they could confront the Army in an attempt to seize power. What is your comment on that?

[Mahjub] Generally speaking, the purpose of the militias was to intimidate other parties, the Army, and anyone else who might contemplate seizing power. We in the Armed Forces knew perfectly well that they were phony and not of the standard of the traditional militia. If the reference is to the militias of shepherds out in the rural areas and in areas adjacent to the south, then I say that their first and last loyalty is to the Armed Forces.

As regards the militias of the parties, they are not, as I have already said, militias in the literal sense of the word. They are mere guards, groups that benefit from being around their leaders. As soon as the Army acted they completely disappeared, but we have arrested some of them and confiscated some arms.

[Mahjub] In the context of what you have said, will you allow the return from abroad of [former State Council Chairman] Ahmad al-Mirghani who, according to media reports, has expressed a desire to do so?

[Al-Bashir] We will definitely not prevent his entry but he will be accountable, like the rest.

[Mahjub] What about the Popular Defense Force formed to confront the rebel forces in the South? Will it continue as before?

[Al-Bashir] As far as that force is concerned, we are still thinking about it. The general idea is that such a force could be guided and placed under the full control of the Armed Forces without any partisan or tribal leanings whatsoever.

[Mahjub] How long will the military rule last, and do you intend to revive the parties formula again?

[Al-Bashir] The present situation will continue until we definitely find a formula that will ensure genuine stability in Sudan. We will never return to the old parties formula at all.

[Mahjub] Do you, then, intend to promulgate a new constitution at this stage?

[Al-Bashir] Everything related to constitutional matters will be left until the relevant institutions are established and until the outlook becomes clearer. We will then have a plan for constitutional development in Sudan to ensure that the masses participate in government effectively—not as in the past.

[Mahjub] Until that stage is reached, what political features will you look for when appointing civilian ministers? Are there any specific names? It has been rumored that most of the new ministers will be university professors.

[Al-Bashir] The ministers we choose will have to be efficient, honest, and with no party affiliations. It is too early to talk about specific names, and no contacts have been made with civilians who could be condidates for the ministries, but I want to say that we will not seek the services of former ministers who participated in former partisan governments, because we are against party affiliations and against any kind of partisanship.

[Mahjub] Will President Numayri return to Khartoum under the new regime, and have any of the Numayri era men—such as Zayn al-'Abidin Muhammad Ahmad 'Abd-al-Qadir and Abu-al-Qasim Muhammad Ibrahim—been released from prison, as reports from Khartoum have indicated?

[Al-Bashir] As far as Numayri's return to Khartoum is concerned, the question is premature. As regards the release of the May regime prisoners, so far no one has been released.

[Mahjub] When will Khartoum Airport be reopened to regular air traffic?

[Al-Bashir] It will perhaps be reopened Monday, God willing.

[Mahjub] What do you think of the Sudanese people's reaction to the change carried out by the Armed Forces?

[Al-Bashir] The Sudanese people have unanimously supported the Armed Forces and the movement for change. The Sudanese people really wanted the change to take place much sooner because of the deterioration and the ruin that had afflicted our homeland.

[Mahjub] What is the attitude of the other Armed Forces sectors toward the change movement?

[Al-Bashir] All the military units in the capital took part in the assumption of power. Each unit took over its barracks in the early hours of the movement and secured it as necessary. Some other units participated in securing strategic positions. The units outside the capital supported the movement from the very first moment and they supported everything the units in the capital did.

[Mahjub] Is there anything you wish to say through 'UKAZ to the Arab and Islamic worlds and to Sudanese expatriates?

[Al-Bashir] I wish to say to all brothers in the fraternal and friendly countries that the change which has occurred in Sudan is a change in the interest of the Sudanese people. It was an operation to save Sudan from decline, splits, and losses. I say to the Arab brothers that we really want to build a strong state that will be a support for them, rather than a weak state that is a burden on them, causing them problems through the disintegration and collapse that threatened it.

As for Sudanese expatriates, we assure them that the movement was carried out with the unanimous support of the Armed Forces and that there is no possibility of a clash between forces. All the Sudanese masses of all partisan affiliations have also supported the movement. It emerged that the leaderships of the parties that wrought havoc in this country are completely isolated from their followers.

Bahrain

Foreign Ministry Denounces Mecca Explosions
JN1107090789 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0820 GMT 11 Jul 89

[Text] Manama, 11 Jul (WAKH)—The State of Bahrain has denounced the two explosions that occurred in Mecca last night, and described the incident as a criminal act that conflicts with all humanitarian and Islamic values.

In a statement by a responsible source at the Foreign Ministry today, the State of Bahrain called for imposing the maximum punishment on the perpetrators of this abominable crime as a deterrent and to ensure the safety of pilgrims and the security of Muslims.

In the statement to WAKH, the source appealed to all nations, particularly the Islamic nations, to denounce this criminal act. The source said that the State of Bahrain considers the two explosions near the holy mosque in Mecca as a treacherous attack against the sanctity of the holy mosque and its innocent pilgrims.

Kuwait

Minister of State Condemns Mecca Explosions
LD1107110689 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 11 Jul 89

[Text] Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi, minister of state for foreign affairs, has made the following statement to KUNA:

Kuwait condemns the criminal act which occurred in holy Mecca last night and which was aimed at the pilgrims and it denounces this act as a criminal act especially as it happened in the holiest place on the face of the earth. The act is incompatible with the principles of our true Islamic religion and with Islamic values.

U.S. Urged To Rethink Mideast Policies
JN1007154089 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 8 Jul 89 pp 1, 23

[Editorial: "American Condolences...?"]

[Text] A Palestinian youth who has had enough of politics and its maneuvers decided to avenge his homeless people who are living in camps. He mounted the bus attack, unaware that such an individual incident would shake the foundations of the Zionist entity.

The "Allahu Akbar" operation amounts to an indictment of the United States, which has never recognized the national rights of the Palestinian people or their Palestinian identity. Instead, the United States has pursued deceptive, hypocritical policies to advance the interests of Israel and its ruling executioners.

The United States must take the responsibility for its odd treatment of the Palestinians and unrestrained tolerance toward the Israelis. It has to face tough decisions as a consequence of habitually humoring Shamir and endorsing his initiatives and sterile proposals.

While the Europeans and Asians are unanimous about the unworkability and unacceptability of Shamir's plan—it is a gimmick to prolong occupation and quell the intifadah [uprising]—the Americans are taking a relaxed position on Shamir's political suggestions and repressive tactics against the Palestinians.

The United States sent its condolences to the bereaved in the bus attack and wished a speedy recovery to the injured. By contrast, no such condolences have ever been sent to Palestinian families who have had their children killed or flown by helicopter to outside Palestine to be dumped in southern Lebanon.

The United States has called for violence to give way to negotiations when it should have pointed a finger at the party that uses violence and shuns negotiations.

Responsibility for the harm done to Israel's bus passengers and shoppers must be borne by those who practice violence, flex their muscles, kill innocents, and profess their rejection of every peace initiative.

What does the United States expect from a Palestinian youth who has lost a brother, father, or cousin? Does it expect such a youth to keep his head forever? Commiserating with the bereaved is no longer relevant in the era of the intifadah. Things have changed, and the United States would do well to talk to the Palestinians in intelligible language instead of urging them to renounce violence. Palestinian violence is nothing more than a stone held by a youngster to defend his family, dignity, and honor in the face of thieves. Palestinian violence is the heroic intifadah itself.

On the other hand, Israel's violence is criminal, pure and simple. Israel's violence is a crime against humanity, justice, divine laws, and whatever touches on Palestinian rights.

Thus the United States might have rethought its policies and edged closer to the Europeans, who are beginning to grasp the facts, nature, and noble goals of the intifadah.

Saudi Arabia

2 Explosions Near Mecca's Holy Mosque Reported
LD1007213189 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2115 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] Holy Mecca, 10 Jul (SPA)—An authoritative security source at the Interior Ministry has told SPA that two explosions occurred at approximately 2200 today in

Holy Mecca. The first explosion occurred in the street leading to the holy mosque, while the second explosion took place at the bridge next to the holy mosque. As a result of this some people sustained injuries.

The source added: "For such a criminal act to happen in this sacred place and on this very day in a regrettable matter. At the moment investigations by the security forces are underway. Any developments will be announced later."

1 Killed, 16 Injured

LD1107060189 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0500 GMT 11 Jul 89

[Text] Mecca, 11 Jul (SPA)—An authoritative source at the Interior Ministry has made the following statement to SPA:

Following the announcement we made earlier on the two explosions that occurred in Holy Mecca at 2200 on Monday 10 July 1989, we inform you that as a result of these explosions, 1 person was killed and 16 others received various injuries, with two of them in a serious condition.

The source concluded its statement, saying: We will announce the nationalities and identities of the victims at a later time.

Minister Denies Iranian Allegations on Hajj Quotas

LD1007220189 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2124 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] Holy Mecca, 10 Jul (SPA)—The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has categorically denied reports disseminated by Iran, claiming that some countries are sending more pilgrims than the quota allocated to them.

The minister of pilgrimage and awqaf, 'Abd al-Wahhab 'Abd al-Wasi' told SPA: "What was published by KEYHAN [Iranian newspaper] on 8 July in this connection is utterly baseless, but is part of the allegations and fabrications that the Tehran government is accustomed to propagating through its mass media, thus aiming at undermining the strong stand of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with regard to the quotas allocated to each Muslim country."

His Excellency stressed that no Islamic country has exceeded the quota allocated to it in the resolution of the 17th Islamic foreign ministers meeting that convened in the Jordanian capital in March 1988.

The minister of pilgrimage and awqaf ended his statement by saying that in the light of this resolution which the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is fully committed to, the Kingdom cannot allow any country to exceed its allocated quota in any instance.

King Fahd Receives Turkish Foreign Minister

LD1007225189 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2228 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Jeddah 10 Jul, (SPA)—The servant of the two holy places, King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud received at his office at al-Salam Palace tonight Mr Mesut Yilmaz, the Turkish foreign minister, who gave him a written message from His Excellency Kenan Evren, the Turkish president. [passage omitted]

Yemen Arab Republic

President Salih Returns From Jeddah Visit

JN1007191289 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, has returned home following a brief working visit to the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The brother president and his delegation arrived at King 'Abd-al-'Aziz Airport in Jeddah at 1230 today. Heading the welcoming party at the airport was King Fahd.

Upon his arrival in Jeddah, President Salih said he is happy to visit Saudi Arabia for talks with the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd, and consultations on issues of mutual interest. President Salih added that he and King Fahd will review the progress made by the three-member committee on Lebanon formed by the Casablanca summit. The president said that we are deeply appreciative of the efforts made by the custodian of the two holy mosques, President Chadli Benjedid, and King Hassan of Morocco. I will also take this opportunity to discuss with the custodian of the two holy mosques issues related to the brother Yemeni expatriates in Saudi Arabia and Arab, Islamic, and international developments.

At 1400 today, a round of Yemeni-Saudi talks was held at the Salam Palace in Jeddah, with brothers Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and the custodian of the two holy mosques leading their country's delegations. The meeting took up ways of furthering the developing ties between the two fraternal countries in all spheres and further cementing the bonds linking the two fraternal peoples and advancing their interests.

The two sides agreed that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will continue to give special attention to the Yemeni expatriates and that they will continue to work for developed ties in all fields. The talks also looked into how to support the popular, overwhelming intifadah [uprising] in occupied Palestine and to intensify Arab efforts on behalf of Palestinian rights until the Palestinians regain their inalienable rights to their national soil.

The custodian of the two holy mosques acquainted his brother, President Salih, with the progress of the activities of the three-member committee on Lebanon.

'Aziz on Tammuz Nuclear Reactor, Syrian Borders

JN1007134989 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz has affirmed that France has to date not agreed to rebuild the Iraqi nuclear reactor, Tammuz, which was destroyed by the Israeli Air Force in the summer of 1981. In an interview with KULL AL-'ARAB magazine published in Paris, Tariq 'Aziz said that his country needs a nuclear reactor for peaceful purposes. He pointed out that Baghdad had signed a treaty banning the spread of nuclear weapons. It places its institutions continuously under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency. The Iraqi official added: We have the right, like all other nations and states of the world, to search for those who can help in developing our information in the nuclear field.

A French Foreign Ministry spokesman announced last May that there are no talks between France and Iraq to rebuild the reactor. However, he pointed out that the Iraqis had raised the issue recently. [passage omitted]

As for what has been reported about the deportation of Kurds from their regions, Tariq 'Aziz said that he challenges the propagators of such lies. He clarified that his government is ready to allow journalists to visit the village of Qal'at Dizah on the borders with Iran.

Commenting on the information which said there was an insurrection in Qal'at Dizah protesting the decision to demolish the village and deport its residents to other regions, the Iraqi official said: There are no disturbances in Qal'at Dizah. Fifty-two residents of the village decided to live in al-Sulaymaniyah and Irbil in Iraqi Kurdistan.

In the same interview, Tariq 'Aziz affirmed that the situation on the Syrian-Iraqi border is normal. He ruled out the possibility of sending Iraqi forces to Lebanon. [passage omitted]

ROK Foreign Minister Choe Arrives 8 Jul

JN0807201789 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Text] Choe Ho-chung, foreign minister of the Republic of Korea, arrived in Baghdad this evening for a several-day visit to the country. He gave a statement to INA in which he said he will hold talks with Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, on increasing bilateral cooperation and issues of common interest. Tariq 'Aziz was at the airport to welcome him.

Embassy Level Ties Established

JN0907122089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1020 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Jul (INA)—The Governments of the Republic of Iraq and the ROK have raised their diplomatic ties to the embassy level out of a common desire to expand bilateral ties of friendship and cooperation and to enhance world peace and security.

A joint statement was issued saying: Prompted by a common desire to expand and enhance the existing ties of friendship and cooperation binding their two countries and peoples and out of a desire to contribute to world peace and security in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter and international law, the governments of the Republic of Iraq and the ROK have agreed to establish diplomatic ties at embassy level as of today, Sunday, and to appoint their consuls general in Baghdad and Seoul as charge d'affaires in both capitals pending the appointment of ambassadors.

Received by Ramadan

JN0907141289 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1335 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad 9 Jul (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolutionary Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, today received Choe Ho-chung, ROK foreign minister and his delegation. Ramadan noted that upgrading the level of relations between Iraq and Korea will open up new possibilities of all-round bilateral cooperation, indicating that the past few years have seen cooperation develop appreciably.

The ROK minister said his country looks forward to increased cooperation with Iraq. He was happy to see relations between the ROK and Iraq upgraded to the embassy level.

Meets With President Saddam

JN0907152989 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] President Saddam Husayn this morning received Choe Ho-chung, ROK foreign minister, who gave him a letter from President No Tae-u expressing delight at raising the diplomatic representation between Iraq and Korea to embassy level. The letter also expresses a wish for more developed relations.

Deputy Foreign Minister and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz and the director general of the Middle East desk at the ROK Foreign Ministry were present at the meeting.

Talks Continue 9 Jul

JN0907183889 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] Official talks between Iraq and the ROK resumed at the Foreign Ministry this evening. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz and ROK Foreign Minister Choe Ho-chung led their delegations. The discussions ranged over regional and international developments.

Also present at the talks were the Foreign Ministry under secretary, the head of the Second International Department at the ministry, the ROK foreign minister's assistant for political affairs, the director general of the Middle East Department at the ROK Foreign Ministary, and the Iraqi and ROK charges d'affaires in Seoul and Baghdad.

Holds News Conference

JN0907191889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1837 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Jul (INA)—ROK Foreign Minister Choe Ho-chung says he appreciates the great leadership of President Saddam Husayn as shown by his determined efforts on behalf of a cease-fire with Iran and his resolve that a just peace be forged with Iran.

The ROK foreign minister's statement was made at a news conference at the Foreign Ministry attended by Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz. His country had not supplied Iran with arms throughout the Gulf war and will continue on that course in the tradition of his government's policies on regional and international disputes.

Tariq 'Aziz said Iraq is willing to build friendly ties with the ROK and that upgrading the diplomatic representation between them to ambassadorial level will help expand and consolidate their economic, trade, cultural, and scientific cooperation.

The foreign minister then traced relations with the ROK since the July 1968 revolution in Iraq. He noted that while Iraq and the ROK did not maintain diplomatic relations, there were economic and trade ties, which we felt must be regulated at the consular level and eventually to ambassadorial relations.

The ROK foreign minister said the decision to upgrade the level of representation to embassy status testifies to strengthening relations. He said he is confident cooperation with Iraq will further deepen and widen.

He said the Korean companies are willing to contribute to the implementation of development projects in Iraq, indicating that the subject came up during his discussions with Iraqi officials.

Further on News Conference

JN0907201389 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1940 GMT 9 Jul 89

[By Faruq Shukri]

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 9 Jul (WAKH)—Iraq today reiterated its determination to boycot any state that supplies Iran with military equipment and weapons as long as a peace treaty to put an end to the 8-year long war has not been signed.

At a joint news conference with the ROK foreign minister, Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said: What we did in the past with the DPRK will be an important factor in determining Iraq's future relations with the world states.

The Iraqi chief diplomat here today stressed that Iraq is watching the other states closely and how they deal with Iran in the armaments field. He said that this is a major factor governing Iraq's relations with all the world's states until we achieve peace with Iran under the auspices of the United Nations. [passage omitted]

The ROK foreign minister denied reports that South Korean companies plan to contribute to the reconstruction of the petrochemical complex at the Iranian port of Bandar-e Khomeyni, which was destroyed by Iraqi planes during the war. He said that these reports are untrue expectations. [passage omitted]

Concludes Visit, Departs

JN1007132889 Baghdad INA in English 1200 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, July 10, INA—The foreign minister of South Korea Choe Ho-chung and his accompanying delegation left Baghdad this afternoon winding up three-day visit to Iraq.

The Korean minister handed over a letter to President Saddam Husayn from South Korean President No Tae-u dealing with opportunities for development of bilateral relations.

He also held talks with Mr Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy premier and foreign minister resulted in upgrading diplomatic representation between the two countries to an ambassadorial level.

AL-THAWRAH on Iranian Rulers' 'Sick Dreams'

JN0907104789 Baghdad INA in English 0920 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, July 9, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily of Baghdad said the Iranian peoples' should understand that their rulers were committed to impossible sick dreams and illusions.

A paper commentary here today titled 'Iranian Illusions' said the Iranian peoples had paid dearly over ten years as a result to the black dreams and illusions of Iranian rulers who are still imagining that they could win the war through massing up arms.

It added that more important than weapons is faith in the just and legitimacy of the war enjoyed by Iraq only which is defending its territory, people and values of justice and freedom.

AL-THAWRAH stressed that Iran rulers were disillusioned by thinking of their capability to deceive and misguide the Iranians and Moslems and black out their reality and evil and expansionist greeds and ambitions.

The daily ridiculed Iran's illusions of its capability to sabotage the pilgrimage season and its thinking of being the third force in the world.

Paper Cited on Syrian Warships Near Lebanon

JN0907104589 Baghdad INA in English 0930 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, July 9, INA—AL-JUMHURIYAH daily of Baghdad said that the Syrian intervention in Lebanon crisis crossed the Arab League Charter and Treaty of the Joint Arab Defence.

A daily commentary here today said that the charter and treaty prohibits use of military force in conflict among Arab countries and also bans use of this force in an attempt to eliminate legitimacy of an Arab country by another Arab country.

The daily said that the abnormal position in Arab relations created by the Syrian armed intervention requires an active Arab plan far from threat and blackmail for putting an end to this intervention since this intervention would jeopardize the Arab entity. It said that the Syrian game had bypassed all legal and constitutional norms.

AL-JUMHURIYAH added that entry of Syrian warships into the Lebanese territorial waters and imposing a sea blockade on Lebanon constituted an act of aggression against a sovereign state. It referred to dangers behind maintaining silence towards this reckless adventure.

It pointed out that an end to the plight of Lebanon was represented in ending the Syrian attempts of hegemony over the destiny of Lebanon, attempts that are similar to the Zionist logic of the concepts of security.

The daily stressed that Lebanon is in need for a subjective opportunity and not a miracle, an opportunity whose objectives is defind and integral where there should be no attempts for courting at the expense of right.

Syrian-'Zionist'-U.S. Plots Against Lebanon

JN1007195689 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 6 Jul 89 p 2

["A Stand" column by Faysal Zaki: "The Conspiracy Against Lebanon and the Mission of the Tripartite Committee"]

[Text] It is clear that those who run the conflict in Lebanon from outside its borders are dealing with the Lebanese question with two contradictory faces. The visible of these faces is represented in what we hear of welcome, support, and backing for the higher Arab tripartite committee entrusted with solving the Lebanese crisis once and for all on the basis of the resolution adopted by the extraordinary Arab summit, which was held in Casablanca in late May. The hidden face is represented in taking the Lebanese crisis back to the sphere of the tripartite U.S.-Zionist-Syrian understanding and encircling any serious attempt to achieve an Arab solution in the manner and formula desired by the Lebanese on the one hand and honest Arabs on the other.

By following the Syrian, Zionist, and U.S. moves, it becomes clear to us that the intensive efforts exerted by the Arab tripartite committee to find an end to the Lebanese tragedy are up against a strong wall of conspiratorial understanding among Tel Aviv, which blusters; the United States, which pressures and maneuvers; and Hafiz al-Asad, who continues to issue threats. These sides have massed their resources in two directions: The first to try to keep the status quo in the crisis; and the second to make a fabricated fuss about the truth of the Iraqi stand toward Lebanon to divert attentions from their liquidatory and conspiratorial plots targeting Lebanon—territory, people, and constitutional and legitimate institutions.

Those people think that by fabricating this fuss with such a consistency they can hide the established facts known by every Arab and Lebanese front the beginning of the Lebanese crisis until today. The first of these facts is that the Lebanese crisis is not 1 month old, but it has been going on for over 14 years. Iraq had not been and is not a party in that crisis; but it has been and still is the side behaving with a high pan-Arab responsibility toward a fraternal Arab country that is subjected to the ugliest forms of sabotage, division, and fragmentation conspiracies.

The second of these facts is that the conspiracy against Lebanon has been conducted from the start by a Syrian-Zionist-U.S. partnership. This partnership developed gradually from a secret and implicit understanding, represented in 1976 by the green and red lines for the Syrian role, up to the declared and exposed understanding after 1982 when roles were distributed and areas of influence perfectly divided. As a result of this, the Palestinian resistance was driven out from Beirut after the Zionist siege and was later driven out from Tripoli after the Syrian siege. The task of completing the liquidation of the Palestinian presence and the legitimate Lebanese institutions was later passed along to the gangs of the Amal Movement and other tools and local militias, which are connected with Damascus, Tehran, or Tel Aviv—the capitals that direct the conflict and execute the conspiracy against Lebanon.

As for the third fact, it is the famous U.S.-Syrian agreement to impose a president on Lebanon whose task consists of legitimizing everything that the partitionist Syrian-Zionist project has achieved so that this country will be transformed into statelets, shares, and small protectorates of Tel Aviv, Tehran, or Damascus. It does not make a difference. Then, the players would proceed to generalize their experience in the Lebanese realm, or in the vital realm of the Zionist entity, according to common Zionist expressions. However, this stage has not materialized, as were hoping those planning for it, because many positive changes have taken place on the Arab level, foremost of which is Iraq's historic victory and the popular Palestinian intifadah [uprising]. A team of Lebanese have managed to find a solid basis opposing all that is arranged against Lebanon, its existence, unity of land and people, national choices, and natural rights to sovereignty and independence.

In fact this Lebanese and Arab challenge had not been taken into account by those who sat themselves on the throne of the Lebanese crisis throughout the past years, especially since the title of this challenge was to expel the invading forces out of Lebanon—whether Zionist, Syrian, or Iranian—lift Syrian guardianship on it, and reject interference in its internal issues as the only way to reunite it and preserve its existence and independence. Those people were shocked by the last Arab summit resolution, which withdrew the Lebanese question's file from the control of the three-sided Zionist-U.S.-Syrian administration to the Arab tripartite committee and completely disoriented the direction of the conspiracy set over Lebanon and the region.

Undoubtedly, nobody expected that those responsible for the Lebanese tragedy would submit to the Arab decision and respond to the Arab committee's efforts. Hafiz al-Asad is not willing to retreat from Lebanon without getting back the value of his role and involvement in the conspiracy. Neither are the Zionists ready to concede the principle of expansion and aggression. Nor is imperialism ready to lift its fingers off Lebanon or otherwise. Therefore, each of them took action from his position and in their own means. Hafiz al-Asad took on the task of exploding the situation, tightening the siege, closing the crossings, and imposing impossible conditions. The Zionists took on the task of waging a new storm against Iraq under the pretext of owning and developing missiles with chemical or nuclear warheads. The U.S. Administration, on the other hand, took on the task of putting pressure on various sides to relieve the Syrian dilemma.

Iraq has been concerned about the success of the Arab committee's tasks and about taking action, stemming from the point of view of a high national sense of responsibility toward a fraternal Arab country—Lebanon. To render useless the final pretexts of the conspirators, expose their intentions, and reveal to the whole world their true scheme, Iraq has declared it will halt weapon supplies to Lebanon on condition that the conspiring sides would adhere to a cease-fire, lift the sieges, open the crossings, and ensure a comprehensive national solution, and also on condition that this would lead to liberating Lebanon from the occupations which threaten its unity, Arab identity, and independence. We are certain that Hafiz al-Asad's and his partners' quiver contains many other pretexts and justifications. However, the Arab tripartite committee, along with all the Arabs, knows very well that the ball was, still is, and will remain in Hafiz al-Asad's court because he is the principle defendent in the crime of destroying and fragmenting Lebanon.

Education Minister Leaves for Moscow 10 Jul

JN1007114589 Baghdad INA in English 1045 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, July 10, INA—Mr. 'Abd-al-Qadir 'Izz-al-Din, education minister today left Baghdad for Moscow leading an Iraqi delegation to attend celebrations of Iraqi-Soviet friendship week starting there tomorrow.

Activities of the week, marking the 21st anniversary of the 17th-30th July revolution and the 30th anniversary of the establishment of Iraqi-Soviet friendship society, will include artistic activities staged by folkloric national troupes and an exhibition of plastic arts depicting heroism of Iraqis in defence of their land and sovereignty.

The delegation will hold talks with Soviet officials for promoting friendly relations between the two countries.

Tariq 'Aziz Leaves for Official Visit to Rome

JN0507142189 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1340 GMT 5 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Jul (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left for Rome today on an official visit of several days to Italy.

Tariq 'Aziz will hold meetings with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar on continuing the negotiations seeking to achieve a durable, comprehensive peace between Iraq and Iran.

In a statement to INA, the deputy prime minister said that the Iranian side will be held fully responsible for the failure so far to implement UN Security Council Resolution 598 and for the continuation of the status quo in the region.

Tariq 'Aziz affirmed that the Iranian side has not so far adhered to the 8 August agreement on launching direct negotiations and has resorted to deception and procrastination. Moreover, the Iranian side has failed to abide by the humanitarian provisions enshrined in international law regarding a comprehensive exchange of prisoners of war between Iraq and Iran following the cease-fire, although 11 months have elapsed since the implementation of the UN Security Council resolution, 'Aziz added.

Tariq 'Aziz stressed that Iraq will raise these issues in all clarity with the UN secretary general, before the UN Security Council, and the world public so that they will be aware of the details of the problem.

'Aziz indicated that he will hold talks with his Italian counterpart, Giulio Andreotti, on prospects for bilateral cooperation and the regional and international issues of common interest.

Returns to Baghdad From Italy

JN0707172189 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 7 Jul (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, returned to Baghdad today following an official 3-day visit to Italy. [passage omitted]

Oil Minister Returns From Saudi Arabia 5 Jul

JN0607073089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2058 GMT 5 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Jul (INA)—Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Jalabi returned to Baghdad this evening at the conclusion of a 4-day official visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

In a statement to INA, the minister said that during the visit he inspected work sites associated with the second phase of the Iraqi crude oil pipeline project via Saudi Arabia. The sites included the loading warehouse and the port on the Red Sea, where work is now in its final stages. Arrangements are currently being made to initiate the operation of the 1.6 million barrels-per-day project in the next few days in preparation for the beginning of Iraqi crude oil exports from the port which will take place in a few weeks, the minister said. He added that current exports through the first phase of the project amount to 500,000 barrels of oil per day.

The minister held talks with his Saudi counterpart, Hisham Nazir, on the outcome of the latest OPEC ministers meeting, which was held in Vienna at the beginning of June. They also discussed the current status of the oil market and the importance of cooperation between OPEC member states in abiding by the latest agreement to ensure the stability of the market and improve oil prices.

Mauritanian Minister Arrives in Baghdad 8 Jul

JN0907061889 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0400 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] Mauritanian President Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya's special envoy to his brother President Saddam Husayn, Major Husayn Sid'Ahmed Ould Baba, Mauritanian minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, arrived in Baghdad last night.

The Mauritanian minister of foreign affairs and cooperation said in a statement to INA: I have arrived in this fraternal country carrying a message from President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya to his brother President Saddam Husayn dealing with fraternal relations between the two countries.

He was received at the airport by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Nuri Luwayyis, Foreign Ministry under secretary; and the Mauritanian ambassador in Baghdad.

Received by President

JN0907151989 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] President Saddam Husayn this morning received an envoy from his brother, Mauritanian President Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya. The envoy, Major Husayn Sid'Ahmed Ould Baba, Mauritania's minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, conveyed an oral message from his president on the close, brotherly bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries and developments in west Africa.

Present at the meeting were Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz and the Mauritanian charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

Meets With Foreign Minister

JN1007132789 Baghdad INA in English 1130 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, July 10, INA—Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, deputy premier and foreign minister today met here with Major Sheikh Sid'Ahmed Ould Baba, Mauritanian minister of foreign affairs and cooperation.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed brotherly relations between the two countries in different fields and discussed the latest developments in West Africa region in addition to international and regional issues of common concern.

Concludes Visit, Departs 10 Jul

JN1107084289 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0400 GMT 11 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Major Sheikh Sid'Ahmed Ould Baba, Mauritanian President Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya's envoy to President Saddam Husayn and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, left Baghdad last night at the end of a 3-day visit to Iraq. [passage omitted]

Peres, Rabin Address Labor Party Bureau 10 Jul

Peres Address

TA1007093889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0648 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres address to a joint meeting of the Labor Party Bureau and Knesset faction in the Knesset Lecturers' Hall on 10 July—live]

[Text] [Broadcast in progress] ...That is not the only thing they expressed. I propose that the central committee members take that point very seriously. It is not child's play. Each day they save us from some threat. As for an international conference, I am happy that Ari'el Sharon has begun to long for an international conference. It is good that he is so sentimental and deeply nostalgic. Those who blocked the Jordanian option paved the way for the PLO and 'Arafat; there is no doubt about that. I would like to say that I sometimes ask myself whether we did the right thing by remaining in the government at that time. It is not a simple issue. I asked myself the question at that time and decided that we had no choice but to remain in the government. Today, retrospectively, I ask myself the same difficult questions. I thought we had no choice but to remain in the government. We could not make everything about the London agreement public. I could not get up and say that such an agreement exists. I could not refer to it; therefore, in fact, I could not explain our leaving the government.

The current situation is completely different. I would like to made it completely clear: In my opinion, if the Labor Party is not in the government, there is no peace process. Dear colleagues, perhaps we are a minority in the wilderness. If so, we will be a minority. We do not need anybody to do us any favors. We will be a minority that remains faithful to its path, rather than a minority that is no more than a fig leaf that covers our grandeur. If we are a minority we will be a true minority, but I do not think we are a minority. I believe that completely different things occurred which were responsible for the election results, but I do not want to deal with that now.

I am sure of one thing: If we are a minority, there is no other majority; there is no majority right wing. This is rubbish; it has no basis in reality. What sort of majority do they have? Can Shamir and Kahane, Rehav'am Ze'evi, and Refa'el Eytan go together? Refa'el and Ze'evi, as well as others, completely reject the peace process. How can they join together? If the Likud wants to set up what is called a narrow-based government with these people, then they have to abandon the peace process and fully adopt Kahanism, both in its overt and covert forms. What sort of majority is that? Is it a majority set up without a peace initiative and which totally isolates Israel and destroys the ground under it, which leads to even worse economic distress than now exists, and which leaves only one option open—that of conflict and war. What sort of majority is that? What sort of right wing is that? Even if the religious parties join them, and not all the religious parties will... [changes thought] We know how to respect the religious and their views without yielding to everything they say; even among the religious Jews there are those who, just like us, seriously believe in the peace process. By the way, how do they make up all those things [reference to press reports of contacts with the religious parties on forming a narrow government]? I did not go with Yosi Beilin to begin any negotiations. In fact, Yosi Beilin was not with me. There is always some new headline. I do not know who makes them up. As for the Rebbe of Vizhnitz, I could not attend a wedding and said I would come and extend my congratulations. This was decided over a month or 3 weeks ago. I went, and we did not say a single word about a coalition. But that does not matter.

I am not going to conduct negotiations with the religious at present. That is not the issue. I would only like to say that those who are concerned about a right-wing majority and the right wing are the so-called princes [reference to Ministers Levi, Moda'i, and Sharon]. The problem is that one should also be afraid of the heirs, because they have not only princes but also crown princes. In fact, the Likud fears not only the right wing but also the right wing inside its own party. The brave stand put up against the three remained firm until the vote took place. I must say in their favor that they caved in only when it came to a vote.

I would like to say that what happened is no less serious than the map Arens presented to Shultz without my knowledge to torpedo the Jordanian option. We sat in the same government. He was not foreign minister, I was foreign minister. [30-second break in transmission]

We reached an agreement on a document; we reached an agreement on what it contains and on what it does not. What is not in it is not coincidental. What it does not contain is not only a Likud-Alignment compromise. What it does not contain is aimed at enabling the Arabs from the territories to become a partner to negotiations. [indistinct interjection from the audience] Do you not know that? Do you need a certificate of legitimacy on that? I am sorry, but that is unnecessary. There is no need for anything. It refers to the inhabitants of the territories. There is no need for a certificate of legitimacy for that. It is not accidental.

I appreciated Shamir saying that a party cannot dictate to the government. What did he mean? He referred to those four braces. There was no other issue, because Sharon, Moda'i, and Levi explained what their conditions are. Later, that same prime minister, not someone else, appears at the central committee and reads out the four braces he himself rejected, at a time when no decision is called for. All that was done for internal party unity. Moda'i then told him: You forgot to read something out. So then he had to get up on the stage again and read it out. Not only that, but the same person, Mr Shamir, who is chairman of the Likud Movement and also prime minister, who told us there is no need now to commit ourselves, informs his colleagues in the government that they are bound by whatever the central committee decides. I would have understood had the Likud Central Committee adopted some resolution, but what happened is that the prime minister himself read the braces out.

I suggest that we not make light of or obscure this move. Woe is us if the peace process is blocked because we did not make the right assessment or avoided a decision.

I would like to say that Sharon's remarks are very serious. On the first point, on stopping the intifadah [uprising]: What does stopping the intifadah mean? How is this viewed by the man in the street? That the Jews can stop the intifadah but do not want to. Why were they angry with me at the funeral? Only because of that. It is not the Arabs but the Jews who are responsible for the intifadah. What was McCarthyism in the United States? Russia is not the danger; the communists in the United States are the danger.

Every Sunday we sit around the cabinet table, and statements are leaked. They speak about a little understanding, a slight opening; they carry a little self-pity, a few hints. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is to blame; the defense minister is to blame. In general, the impression being created is that the intifadah is not being stopped because of us.

I would like to say to those people that we are not taken in by them. They are creating hatred among brethren in the nation. All those who go about the street trying to get Jews to blame other Jews are endangering the security of the state.

Let us say that Sharon did take steps in Gaza. So what. Has Gaza been calm since then? Did it not return to what it was after some time? The IDF was deployed in full force in Lebanon for 3 years. What was the outcome? [30-second break in transmission]

They say that there is never a danger in the power of the extremists, there is always a danger in the weakness of the moderates. They say we could do this or that, that we do not understand. I understand fully. These people endanger national unity and Israel's security. They should be told directly that they are false patriots. They are not true patriots.

There is no doubt that the Palestinian option is not as good as the Jordanian option. I would also like to say. First of all, as a result of it the United States is already talking with the PLO. We know it; there is no point in pretending. From time to time, a reprimand is sent to placate someone in the Likud, but both Arens and Shamir, during their visits to the United States, avoided criticizing the Americans for it. I think they were right. Europe is talking with the PLO. If representatives of inhabitants of the territories are elected, will they adopt Zionist positions, either those of the Likud or the Alignment? Do we not know what positions they will adopt? Is it difficult to guess? Are we closing our eyes? That is why we say that only if they are representatives recognized by Israel and the entire world will we enter serious negotiations.

I would also like to say that the PLO has now achieved an unprecedented status, which it did not have under the Jordanian option. I also note that for the first time, the USSR issued a very sharp denunciation of the bus attack and threatened the terrorist organizations. I appreciate this and would like to voice my appreciation. On the other hand, I know what its position on the PLO is.

I would like to say what these terrible braces are. The first brace gives the most extreme terrorist organizations the right of veto over the peace process. What does it mean when they say: No peace negotiations as long as the intifadah is not quelled? Who decides on that? Let us say that some extremist organization does not want to end it. Does that mean no negotiations? I understand those who reject this initiative imposing such a condition. What sort of madness is this? To give the extremists and violent people among the Arabs the right of veto over whether there will be negotiations or not. Where is the logic in that?

I understand that we should not hold negotiations as a result of terrorism. We are in favor of peace and not terrorism, but negotiations should not be stopped because terrorists do not permit them. Neither one nor the other should be the case.

On another point: Did the PLO initiate the intifadah? Is anybody sure about that? Can the PLO stop the intifadah? Is anybody certain of that? When somebody says they should stop terrorism and then we will talk with somebody, who will that person be? If the residents the territories are not responsible for the intifadah, what is the point of talking to them? If the PLO is responsible for the intifadah, how can talks with the PLO be stopped? It is full of contradictions. That is why we proposed talks with representatives of the territories, not with the PLO. [1-minute break in transmission] A ballot box in Tel Aviv would not pose a danger to Tel Aviv. [indistinct interjection] Excuse me, but it was Jerusalem that was annexed; the Jordanian residents of Jerusalem were not. We will distinguish between the two.

On the fourth [as heard] point: I am opposed to annexing 130,000 Jordanian inhabitants even if Jerusalem is united, which it is, and even if Jerusalem is sovereign and we are the only sovereign power in Jerusalem. That does not mean we have to annex 140,000 [as heard] Jordanian inhabitants to the State of Israel.

I would now like to refer to the fourth point. They now get up and say not one inch, just when we want to start negotiations. They say this binds all the Likud cabinet ministers. Is this what is called for today? Whoever says not one inch will hear us say out loud territorial compromise and territories for peace. Is this the way to preserve a unity government? It is a provocation directed against us more than against anyone else. It is an attempt to smash unity, not to strengthen it. This they call braces?

Colleagues, we gave up a lot in order to preserve the national unity government. They can say what they like. We are faced with a great deal of public criticism over that. Had we sought popularity, we would have remained outside the government; had we sought popularity, we should not have taken over the Treasury; had we sought popularity, perhaps we should not have taken on defense. All this is true if the goal is popularity, but if the goal is the peace process, it is another matter. Peace even comes before the popularity of peace. [sentence as heard]

On the other hand, I would like to say that we will not be used as a fig leaf for the Likud or for double-talk. We are not cantors who will chant the prayer for the dead over the open grave of the peace process. We have no such intention. If we cannot serve as an alternative, we will serve as a hope. We are what we are. None of us has any guarantee on how many votes he will get, but we have a conscience and we will not retreat from it.

I would now like to move on to more practical proposals, and I would like to propose, as Mikha [Labor Party Secretary General Mikha Harish] has already said, that we convene the central committee soon, at the earliest date possible. I suggest that the Bureau propose that the central committee send the following letter to Yitzhaq Shamir:

The Labor Party has reached the decision, in view of the latest events in which you played a central role and which seriously harmed the chances for the Israeli Government's initiative, that conclusions should be drawn and the present government be disbanded in an honorable and responsible manner. The Labor Party was a party to the establishment of the present government with the aim of making an effort, together with the Likud and other parties, to fervently and persistently pursue the peace process in the region. A central plank in the coalition agreement states, and I quote: The government will continue to place its desire for peace at the head of its concerns and will spare no effort to promote peace.

On the basis of its guidelines, the government formulated a political plan to advance the negotiating process, including free, democratic elections among the Palestinian Arabs. Likud and Alignment representatives in the government delineated the limits of the political common denominator between them, which enabled both parties to support the political initiative despite the differences in principle between them on the ways to achieve a solution of the Palestinian problem and to institute stable peace in the region.

The political plan was agreed on between us: not only what was clearly written in it, but also what was not written in it. Together we carefully and responsibly weighed its chances for implementation and avoided making decisions at this time on questions on which the Likud and Alignment are divided. After reading your speech to the central committee we reached the conclusion that instead of defending the political plan of the government which you lead, you gave in to the views and positions of those who reject the agreed upon initiative and want to foil it.

The central committee's directives to its representatives in the government dealt a heavy blow to the political plan, eroded its chances, and sabotaged the political process, in contravention of the agreement between our two parties. The Likud eliminated the basis for the existence of the national unity government.

Before the Likud Central Committee meeting, you warned against approving the demands of Ministers Sharon, Moda'i, and Levi because it was also clear to you that the government would find it very hard to implement the political plan, based on the coalition agreement, if the demands were met. Nevertheless, you preferred unity in your party over the chance for achieving peace and national unity, and you gave in to those demands and undertook as prime minister to act in accordance with them. In doing so, you and your party violated the agreement between us.

The Labor Party Bureau and its Knesset faction view the Likud Central Committee decision as a serious violation of agreements and understandings between the Likud and the Alignment in the political sphere. When the prime minister does not abide by agreements and understandings with us, and when there is no Alignment-Likud agreement on a joint path on the most vital and important issue—advancing the peace process—there is no ground for a continued partnership in the government.

In the coalition agreement, we agreed that if mutual trust between us comes to an end, each side will not try separately to set up a narrow-based government but will act together with the other to end the government's term and hold new elections. The Labor Party is appealing to you, Mr Shamir, to implement this agreement between us. [applause] In addition, we propose to the central committee to give us a mandate to approach Shamir, because we have a commitment. That is why I said we have not conducted negotiations with the religious parties. If there is no agreement, then there should be elections. Whatever we agreed upon we will honor.

In addition, I propose that in view of the braces that were adopted, the central committee should consider a number of central political issues. First, we must reiterate the Labor Party's position rejecting the not-an-inch concept. We must make that clear. I have never managed to understand how the Gaza Strip is our territory. What sort of talk is that? Anyone who wants to cheat someone else cheats himself. What does Gaza give us? Are we interested in a demilitarized Gaza? Yes. We have no interest in running Gaza and keeping our soldiers and policemen there forever. To what end? In order not to give up a single inch of territory? I told Shamir in reference to Tabah that I understand strategy, but not one based on sunbathing. How can we not give up 250 dunams after giving up all of Sinai?

And now we talking about not giving up land? Are we not talking here about annexing 650,000 Arabs against their will? And this figure does not even include the Israeli Arabs. Are we talking about territory? We are talking about people! What is more important for security: these 350 square km populated to capacity or the 650,000 Arabs who do not wish to live under our rule?

Therefore I believe the central committee should reiterate: We negate the brace that strangles Israel, that talks about annexing all the residents in the name of the slogan "not an inch." We favor territorial compromise if it will lead to peace and a Jewish majority. We do not reject the idea of territories for peace. Second, we are prepared to enter negotiations with Arab representatives from the territories immediately. Let them consult with whomever they want, but let them not dabble in terrorism or be members of a terrorist organization.

Third, we will not hand the right of veto over the peace process to the extremist terrorist organizations. Anyone who makes the termination of the intifadah a condition in fact hands the fate of peace over to any extremist organization in the field.

I propose that we rule that beyond the five settlements that have been agreed on, no further settlement will be established at this time.

Fifth, all the Jordanian citizens will be permitted to vote in the territories, provided that the vote does not take place in Jerusalem.

Sixth, we have no objection to accepted outside observers from countries that maintain diplomatic relations with Israel.

Seventh, the elections will be free, political elections and will offer the representatives complete freedom. Furthermore, those who will be elected will actually be elected to fulfill three tasks, according to the peace initiative: a) to conduct negotiations on self-rule, b) to constitute the nucleus for that self-rule body, should it be created, and c) to serve as the nucleus for negotiations on behalf of the group that will conduct negotiations on the permanent solution.

Finally, we are prepared to cooperate with Egypt and Jordan. In fact, we are prepared to talk to any Arab country that recognizes UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, recognizes Israel's right to live in peace and rejects terrorism. Then the Labor Party will show its path. Actually, the message is simple: If there is a peace process, there is a government; if there is no peace process, we are not in the government—as clearly as that.

I propose that the Labor Central Committee and faction recommend to the party Bureau that this letter be sent.

Rabin Speech

TA1007121389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0725 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Address by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to the joint meeting of the Labor Party's Bureau and Knesset faction at the lecture hall in the Knesset building in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] [Broadcast in progress] ...after the last Knesset elections there is a chance for a peace process. Furthermore, I believe that at a one point we managed to bring about a cabinet decision on a peace initiative, a decision with which I am totally at peace. Let me tell Shim'on Peres here: There is a difference; the London agreement was not a government decision, while the peace initiative is a government decision, adopted by a majority of 20 against 6 ministers. Therefore, a blow dealt to a government decision is ten times worse than an idea which was very good but which did not receive the government's approval.

Therefore, it seems to me that we should now try to clarify to ourselves the meaning of the Likud Central Committee's resolutions. Were it not for these resolutions, I, for one, would not have asked for the convening of this forum, and I assume it would not have convened.

The main problem in the entire peace initiative by the government, the problem over which the government will rise or fall, is whether a partner to negotiations with us will be found among the residents of the territories. Everything else is meaningless. The test for starting a political process lies in finding a partner among the residents of the territories.

I would not say that the problem was simple even before the Likud Central Committee's resolutions. Still, one should examine to what extent these resolutions damage or eliminate the chance to begin the peace process—that is, to find a Palestinian partner. In my opinion, this is the main point on which the Likud's opponents of the peace initiative focused: With their resolutions, with their braces, they have hit it hard, if not totally killed it.

Let me try to explain why. What is, in fact, being said to those residents in the territories who need to dare to risk their lives by saying that they accept the initiative in principle, with certain conditions or reservations, so that the process can be started? They are first told... [changes thought]. As Shim'on said, according to the Likud definition, we are, in fact, giving the right of veto to every terrorist organization—as mad, murderous, full of hate for Israel and craving to murder Jews as it may be, as manifest in last Thursday's horrendous crime. Every such organization can jeopardize the entire political move. Moreover, the Likud's resolution on this clause runs counter to the government's decision, since this decision, which is acceptable to me, stipulates that elections should be held in an atmosphere free of violence and terror.

Still, how does one reach elections? One should first conduct negotiations with a Palestinian partner who agrees to accept the plan in principle. Later, detailed negotiations should be conducted on the process of the elections. This is not simple. Hundreds of specifics should be discussed and anchored in agreements. According to the Likud's definition, it is, in fact, impossible to reach elections. It is impossible to conduct negotiations before terror and violence are liquidated.

In general, I know those in the Likud who talk of liquidating terror. We have seen them; we have seen how they uprooted terror in Lebanon, how they liquidated and quelled it! Even 30 years of intifadah [uprising] will not result in Israeli and Jewish bloodshed as did the Lebanese war and the 3 years of presence there after the war. Therefore, this clause means a veto, in fact, inability to conduct negotiations with Palestinians in order to reach elections.

Second, we refrained from discussing modalities [last word in English]. I met with the U.S. President and secretary of state. They raised the issue, and I can gladly say that they accepted my position: There is no point in entering a discussion over who can and who cannot be elected before a Palestinian partner comes up and accepts the idea in principle. The Americans then stopped mentioning this issue. And, lo and behold, what happens now: The Likud has arisen and announced the components of the modalities, who will and who will not be elected!

I sat down with Palestinians from the territories, from the West Bank, and they asked me about the vote of East Jerusalem residents. I answered them as follows: We have different views on this, but you know what? First inform us that you are prepared, in principle, to accept the initiative, with whatever changes and conditions you think of, and we will sit down and hold a discussion. What they are told today, in fact, is: You should know that the prime minister, the Likud, will not agree to this. Will this encourage Palestinians to come and accept the initiative in principle?

Third, they are told... [changes thought] As we asked the Americans, as we demanded of all: The problem is not to argue today over the components of the permanent solution; the point is to leave this issue for the time being. We know that even we and the Arabs disagree, that the Likud and the Arabs surely disagree, that we and the Likud also disagree, so let us not deal with this now. To move the peace initiative forward, the problem at this stage is to find a partner and to make the first step, to leave the components of the permanent solution for a later discussion. Everybody knows the platforms of the Likud and the Alignment. Still, for the Likud today to make a decision which is binding on its ministers and to publicize it worldwide, a decision which speaks of "no inch" and which stipulates that there will be no foreign sovereignty west of the Jordan River—does this make it possible to find a partner among the residents of the territories today? Even prior to this decision it was difficult to do so.

Hence the gravity of the Likud Central Committee's resolutions. Combined they severely damage, if not more than that, the chance to move the peace process forward. I do not know whether [word indistinct] was involved, or if the problem was misunderstood. It is nevertheless clear to me why the opponents of the peace initiative who did not conceal their principle opposition to this initiative took care to have these braces. They assumed they are thus burying it. Therefore, under these circumstances, the question is what we are left with: Are we to engage in liquidating violence and terror without any political turning point? I will not discuss other problems here.

It seem to me then, regardless of the formulation of the letter to the prime minister, that if the situation remains as such, there is no point or ability to remain in the government. In a situation where the peace initiative is totally castrated; where the possibility of moving it forward is frustrated, as moving it means finding a partner; and where the braces have damaged the chance of finding a partner, what is said now is: No, the peace initiative has not changed at all. In practice, however, what will happen is that the initiative will not move forward since a partner with whom we could work will not be found.

The second question is when to make such a decision, or what can we present as our alternative? My opinion here does not reject, in principle, the view that we have nothing to do in the government if this is indeed the situation. Nevertheless, in the framework of our participation in the government still, and on the basis of the government's decision on its initiative, is it not worth our while to give this decision an interpretation of our own and to try, on the basis of our interpretation, to find a Palestinian partner, and then there may either be a confrontation or elections?

What would I suggest then? I suggest that we state in principle that on the basis of the current situation, we cannot remain in the government, supplementing our statement with this or another letter, as it is the principle rather than the formulation of the letter that is important. Second, I suggest that we make a different decision, based on the framework of the peace initiative, but which, as opposed to the Likud Central Committee's resolutions, introduces our points into this initiative.

Let me explain my proposal. First, the Labor Party should call on the Palestinians in the territories to hold a dialogue with us, and if they so wish, also hold consultations with elements in the Arab world, in order to accept the government's peace initiative in principle. Let me add here that if Egypt said it has an understanding with the Palestinians and proposed a list of personages with whom we should conduct negotiations, I would be in favor of this, and I do not care with whom the Egyptians precoordinated matters.

Second, the negotiations with the Palestinians in the territories about the acceptance of the principles of the government's initiative and about an agreement on the specifics of the election plan will take place when the Palestinians show up for talks without any preconditions whatsoever. It is only the elections that will take place in an atmosphere free of violence and terror, but a single terrorist act or two need not disrupt them.

Third, in the framework of the transitional arrangement which would be achieved, we should introduce elements from the Camp David accords: first, a withdrawal of the military authorities upon the establishment of the transitional arrangement; and second, according to the Camp David terminology, a withdrawal of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and its redeployment in the area.

Fourth, we will inform the Palestinians that negotiations over the permanent solution will be anchored in Resolutions 242 and 338, which mean territories in return for peace, but not all the territories, not a withdrawal to the 1967 borders, nor a partitioning of Jerusalem from the sovereignty point of view. Second, [as heard] political rights will be granted to the Palestinians in the territories upon the establishment of the transitional period. Third, Palestinians from the outside will be incorporated in the negotiations over the permanent solution. These Palestinians will be agreed upon between us, Egypt, and the Palestinians in the territories. Fourth, from the moment the Palestinians in the territories enter negotiations with us, no new settlements will be set up until the establishment of the transitional period, and the matter of settlements will be subject to negotiations between us and the Palestinian self-administration.

I suggest that a limited forum consolidate a position, on the basis of the peace initiative, which will be the position of the Labor Party for all stages of the process. I suggest that we try to examine, within a clearly defined period of time, whether this move yields results. If we see there is no change, if we see it does not yield results due to the Likud Central Committee's resolution and the knowledge that there is no common government position here, we should then draw the conclusion I stated before—namely, that there is no room to remain in the government.

Reportage on Reaction to Labor Party Decision

David Levi Cited

TA1007121589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister David Levi said that the recommendation made by the Labor Party Bureau and the Labor Knesset faction is a pretext to dissolve the government, as the Likud's positions were known—and have not changed.

Minister Levi emphasized that the Labor Party had been deluding itself if it thought that the Likud's positions had become blurred and that a peace plan based on the Labor Party's beliefs could be promoted.

He pointed out that the Labor Party's decision to resign from the government would be accepted with regret.

Elections Requested

TA1007122889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] The Alignment Knesset faction has called on the Knesset to announce new elections to be held already this year in conjunction with the elections to the Histadrut, which are to take place in several months. The Labor Party caucus says that it is better to dissolve the government than to tear apart the land of Israel and the state.

Rabin Interviewed

TA1007123289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1005 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by moderator Shalom Qital and Knesset correspondent Ze'ev Kohen at an improvised studio in the Knesset building—live]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Qital] Minister, does the Labor Bureau decision mean that the Alignment is leaving the government?

[Rabin] The resolution, in fact, the recommendation—because the Labor Bureau and Knesset Faction do not have the authority to pass resolutions on this issue—recommends to the central committee simply that since we regard the Likud Central Committee resolution as harming the peace initiative as it had been adopted by the government—and it's no wonder, because those who prompted the Likud to adopt the resolution were the ones who opposed the initiative in the government—under these circumstances, there is no room for the continued existence of the government.

[Qital] Mr Rabin, I heard Shim'on Peres and yourself at the opening of the Bureau session. Shim'on Peres said unequivocally that if the government is dissolved, elections will follow. Are you also in favor of this option?

[Rabin] I do not want to get into this subject at the moment. We will discuss it if the central committee makes the decision.

Now, does not the Likud have braces? Very well, now the Alignment, too, has braces.

[Qital] Is that so? I thought that what you did today was pry the braces open.

[Rabin] No.

[Qital] You tried to.

[Kohen] As I understand it, you were in favor of waiting to see what chance the initiative will have in the cabinet, rather than exiting the government.

[Rabin] No, I was not in favor of waiting to see, there is nothing to see in the cabinet. The cabinet had made a decision. The Likud Central Committee resolutions bind the Likud cabinet ministers on the central issues.

[Kohen] And now the Alignment, too, has braces?

[Rabin] Now the Alignment—which has not so far reneged on its original undertaking to perpetuate the unity government and to adhere to the cabinet resolutions—will come out to the public, as has the Likud, saying that we stick to the Alignment stands; we will state our stands just as the Likud has stated its own. We will not promote our stands while acting on behalf of the government. We will do so, however, as party members; we are allowed to take action and persuade people, just as the Likud ministers are permitted to persuade the public of their stands. Let them try and convince the Arabs to join peace negotiations while they are saying that there will be no foreign sovereignty west of the Jordan River; that we will impose our sovereignty over all Eretz Yisra'el territories; and I do not know what else. Let us see them convince the Arabs.

[Qital] Mr Rabin, in your opinion, when will the central committee convene to decide?

[Rabin] I do not know, there is no decision on this point, but I assume at least 3 weeks must be allowed to elapse, so that a number of issues can be examined in the party, not the government.

[Kohen] Will the cabinet continue business as usual?

[Rabin] I guess so.

[Qital] Thank you very much, Mr Defense Minister.

NRP Reaction To Split

TA1007125189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] The National Religious Party [NRP] Knesset faction said that a possible Labor Party resignation from the coalition would sabotage national unity. The NRP made it clear that it is not even a potential partner for negotiations to form a narrow-based Government with the Alignment.

SHAS Supports Labor

TA1007132289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] Party leader Yitzhaq Peretz says cabinet members from the SHAS Party support the principles of the Labor Party.

Rabbi Peretz says the SHAS members back Labor's proposals to enable East Jerusalem Arabs to participate in the proposed elections and to invite international observers to supervise.

Speaking on the radio Peretz said SHAS is not interested in being part of a narrow government. He called on Labor not to withdraw from the coalition but said the decisions of the Likud Central Committee have hindered the peace process.

Religious Groups' Reaction

TA1007161489 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] The SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] Party and the National Religious Party [NRP] call on both the Likud and the Labor Party to maintain the national unity government, but while the NRP rejects the formation of any sort of narrow-based government, the SHAS Party is keeping all options open.

Agudat Yisra'el and Degel Hatorah [the other two religious parties in the Knesset] have still not stated their official position. Moshe Hakohen sums up the reactions in the religious parties following the Labor Party Bureau's decision:

[Begin recording] [Hakohen] The SHAS faction feels that there is no reason to dissolve the national unity government at this time. Yitzhaq Peretz, the immigrant absorption minister says that such a step would gravely harm the national interest.

[Peretz] I understand the distress in which the Alignment finds itself. I do not feel that this is the right time for their resignation from the government. They should try to exhaust the political process as far as possible, and if they should wish to quit, they will be able to find stages, which I hope will not come to pass, in which to resign.

[Hakohen] Minister Peretz refused to commit himself regarding the steps SHAS will take if the Alignment does indeed resign; whether it will enter a narrow-based government led by the Likud—or maybe the Labor Party—or whether it will support calling for early elections. Peretz said that this decision must be made by the Council of Torah Scholars [spiritual leadership of SHAS Party].

[Peretz] At this stage we find it hard to say whether we prefer the Labor or the Likud. We have to see how things develop, things can move in various directions and we cannot adopt a position regarding processes—processes whose inevitability remains doubtful—at such an early stage.

[Hakohen] The NRP faction also intends to take action to keep the Alignment in the unity government, even though it supports the braces the Likud Central Committee attached to the political initiative. The NRP made it clear that it will not participate in a narrow-based government led by either of the two major parties. This was stated by Minister Avner Sciaki.

[Sciaki, picked up in mid-sentence] ...since the NRP holds the state interest above party interests on this matter, and there is no doubt that in a narrow-based government we would receive more posts, more resources, more budgets, more authorities, and greater prestige. I reject all this in favor of the greater issue. That is why I believe that despite all that was said this morning at the conclusion of the Labor Bureau's meeting and despite the fact that the Labor Party's Central Committee is about to convene, the national consideration—comprised of political, security, economic, and social considerations—will predominate, and national unity will emerge triumphant for the better of our people.

[Hakohen] And if it does not succeed?

[Sciaki] I believe it will succeed.

[Hakohen] Agudat Yisra'el and Degel Hatorah have still not formulated their position and appear to be beset by conflicting viewpoints on the issue. It is estimated that these two factions will wait and test the direction of the political wind before they adopt a final decision.

Peres Cited on 'End of Road'

TA1107045089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 11 Jul 89

[Text] Labor Party leader Shim'on Peres says there is now only one alternative and that is new elections. Peres was talking to reporter Le'a Zinder.

[Begin recording] [Zinder] Finance Minister Shim'on Peres said last night that the present government has come to the end of the road. He made it clear for the first time that he is in favor of holding new elections, in accordance he said, with the coalition agreement between the Likud and the Labor Party.

[Peres] It is the agreement between the two parties. There was an agreement that if we shall reach a stalemate, there will be a need to dismantle a government and that neither of the two parties will try to build a narrow government, but rather turn to the people for a decision.

[Zinder] Peres said he believes the elections will take place in a few months time, but that the date is not important. However, said Peres, if the Likud makes attempts to set up a narrow government, Labor will do likewise. He said the extreme right-wing parties will only join a coalition with the Likud if it renounces the peace initiative, and if that happens, said Peres, the Likud will lose everything.

Peres came to the dinner of the friends of the Weizman Institute directly from the Knesset, after the Labor faction, in an unprecedented move, had absented itself from the vote of confidence in the government of which it is a member. He said it was not Labor but the Likud that had made the continuation of the present government impossible.

[Peres, in midsentence] ...and the end of the peace initiative is the end of the road.

[Zinder] Mr Peres, do you think that the national economy can sustain the trauma of a new round of elections?

[Peres] Well, I hope the answer is positive, but I am asking myself: Can the Israeli economy sustain a freeze in the peace momentum?

[Zinder] Peres said that more than anything else, the economy needs stability, and that is dependent on a peace process that is recognized by the entire world.

Shim'on Peres refused to comment on reports that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker had sent a message to him, urging him not to leave the government coalition. He said that he thought Labor's Central Committee would convene to vote on an end to the government coalition in about 3 weeks. [end recording]

2d Cabinet Vote on Initiative Anticipated

TA1007184789 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] At the upcoming cabinet session, the prime minister will probably seek a second vote to ratify the political initiative. Our political correspondent Yig'al Goren reports that in consultations Yitzhaq Shamir held today with ministers from his close circle of intimates this possibility was discussed, on the assumption that the initiative will again win a large majority and that Ministers Sharon, Levi, and Moda'i will remain in the minority.

Our political correspondent adds that the United States is contemplating sending the State Department delegation to Israel at an earlier date than originally planned, in a bid to salvage the peace initiative and permit the Alignment not to dissolve the unity government.

Shamir Bureau on Vote

TA1107110189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 11 Jul 89

[Text] The Prime Minister's Bureau has dismissed reports that the cabinet will vote on the Likud Central Committee's conditions for the peace initiative as pure speculation.

According to the report, the prime minister would act on an earlier request by Minister Sharon to put the four conditions to the vote, and they would then be defeated because eight of the Likud ministers would vote against them. Jack Katzenell reports:

Press reports this morning explained that the prime minister is looking around for a way to keep the Labor Party in the government, and one suggestion made by his close confidants was to put the Likud's four conditions to the vote. It was predicted that they would be defeated by an overwhelming majority consisting of all the Labor ministers, plus those of the Likud, with the exception of Sharon, Levi, and Moda'i.

The argument was that the peace initiative, as adopted by the government, should not be changed, and Likud ministers should vote against any attempt to add to it or qualify it in any way. However, these Likud ministers would be violating the decision of their central committee, which stated that Likud cabinet ministers and Knesset members must abide by the four principles adopted in the central committee resolution. In other words, to put the four conditions to a vote would place the Likud ministers in a very embarrassing situation.

Another theory put forward in this morning's news report was that the Likud decision had jeopardized the careers of the princes: Those young cabinet ministers—Olmert, Meridor, and Milo—appointed by Shamir as a counterweight to Sharon and Levi. It was explained that Sharon had become the effective leader of the party when his four principles were adopted by the central committee.

This morning I telephoned the office of one of the princes and was told again that the report was nonsense. The four conditions will not be put to a vote in the cabinet, I was told. All that might happen is that the prime minister would ask the cabinet to reaffirm the peace initiative in its original form, in the hope that this might satisfy the Labor Party and help to persuade it to remain in the government.

Labor Party circles commented that this would certainly not be enough.

Knesset Defeats No-Confidence Motions

TA1007192189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] The Knesset this evening struck off its agenda seven no-confidence motions submitted by the opposition factions from the left and the right. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the six [as heard] no-confidence motions submitted by the leftist factions were defeated by a vote of 41 against 12 and 5 abstentions.

This motion [as heard] was submitted in reaction to the prime minister's address before the Likud Central Committee last week. The Alignment faction members were absent from the hall during the vote.

Alignment faction Chairman Hayim Ramon said that his faction regards the Likud Central Committee resolutions as a blatant violation of the understandings reached between the prime minister and Minister Arens on the one hand, and Ministers Peres and Rabin on the other hand. These understandings were deliberately left out from the coalition agreement.

The Alignment Knesset members returned to the plenary hall when the vote on the motions submitted by Tehiya and Moledet on the government's handling of the intifadah [uprising] was held. That motion [as heard] was defeated by 47 coalition votes versus 4, with 10 abstentions.

Alignment Absent

TA1007133189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] The Alignment Knesset faction has decided that all its members will be absent from and will not participate in the vote on six no-confidence motions submitted by the opposition factions. The faction decided this in the wake of last week's Likud Central Committee resolutions and in the spirit of the decision made at noon by the Labor Party Bureau to recommend that its central committee decide on withdrawing from the coalition.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that 15 of the faction members supported the proposal, 3 were opposed, and 1 abstained. Absence from the vote in the Knesset in fact precludes the possibility of adopting disciplinary measures against the faction, while abstention during a no-confidence vote would allow the prime minister to dismiss ministers who abstain and even dissolve the coalition.

Arens Interviewed: No Change in Initiative

TA1007151389 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens by Dan Shilon and Goni Mardor—live]

[Text] [Shilon] Good evening, Minister Arens.

[Arens] Good evening.

[Shilon] We understand that the main criticism in your party is directed at Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres. And yet, none other than Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin—whom the Likud respects and admires so much for holding widely-supported views—said this evening that the Likud Central Committee's resolution in fact totally distorted the peace initiative. I expect that you would like to deny this.

[Arens] Look, first of all, this is factually wrong. The initiative, as endorsed by the cabinet, is unchanged. Only the cabinet can effect a change in the initiative. The Likud Central Committee adopted the initiative by a unanimous vote.

[Shilon] But the Likud Central Committee also called on the Likud members of the cabinet to accept the addenda to this initiative.

[Arens] That is true, but only the cabinet can change the initiative. The Likud Central Committee did not do what you just talked about; it did not demand that the Likud ministers change the initiative. The word change was never mentioned.

[Mardor] Does that mean that the braces do not have to be added?

[Arens] So he got his facts wrong, therefore his statement is unjustified. There may be people who are looking for excuses to dissolve the coalition. Some people tried to torpedo the establishment of the unity government even before it was set up and have continued their activity even afterward. Perhaps Mr Peres joined these circles today.

[Shilon] Perhaps also Mr Rabin.

[Arens] I maintain that elections are not what Israel needs right now. We held elections approximately 8 months ago, and I think new elections could not bring any good. Possibly in West European countries elections can be held once every other year, even once a year. We, however, are facing enormous national challenges.

[Shilon] Let me interrupt you at this point, Mr Arens, if you please, with a question that is no longer hypothetical: Supposing Minister Ari'el Sharon seeks a cabinet vote on the right of the East Jerusalem Arabs to vote and on the issue of the termination of the intifadah as a precondition for negotiations with the Palestinians to begin. Will the Likud ministers then still be bound to the central committee resolution?

[Arens] I think that if a proposal is raised in the cabinet next week to alter the previously approved political initiative, the motion will be defeated by a very large majority.

[Shilon] In other words, the Likud ministers' vote will actually contradict the central committee's resolution?

[Arens] Not at all. They will act in accordance with the central committee's resolution, without altering the initiative.

[Shilon] How can you explain that?

[Mardor] What about the Arabs of East Jerusalem, for example?

[Arens] At this stage, the political initiative, as passed by the cabinet, should not be changed; furthermore, the Likud Central Committee did not decide to effect any change. The word change did not appear at all in the resolution passed by the central committee. Therefore, as I said before, those who seek pretexts will be able to find them anywhere. In reality, there is no room for this.

[Shilon] I would like you to address the word substance, not change. If a motion is raised in the cabinet to decide on these two clauses—not for the sake of calling them a change, but merely to pass a resolution on two operational, very substantial clauses—will you...

[Arens, interrupting] I think that any resolution that will be raised in the cabinet for an addition to or change in the initiative as it had been endorsed by the cabinet will be defeated by a very large majority.

[Mardor] Do you think that your colleagues Sharon, Levi, and Moda'i will accept your version?

[Arens] We are talking about a hypothesis speculating about reality. If such a thing is put up to a vote, very soon thereafter people will be able to tell who was right.

[Shilon] One more question, Minister Arens: Supposing the Alignment truly makes good on what tonight seems to be a threat of seceding from the cabinet, will the option of a narrow-based, Likud-led government exist?

[Arens] Look, hypothetical options always exist, yet I believe that the pertinent question now is whether this will be good for the State of Israel now. I think that right now a narrow-based government, surviving thanks to one or two votes, is not good for Israel. It would not be good for Israel to return to the helter-skelter of elections. I believe Israel currently needs the broad-based unity government to continue. It does not need elections. I hope that after it reconsiders our state of affairs and gives national interests their deserved priority, the Alignment, too, will reach the same conclusion.

[Mardor] Today's draft resolution, as it was published today, mentioned these circumstances, elaborating on what will happen if this situation prevails. The Alignment seems to be expecting some Likud gesture. Can you see one coming?

[Arens] I do not know what gesture they have in mind. Anyone who expects a gesture had better define precisely what he expects, and then it would be possible to address his demands.

[Shilon] Thank you very much, Foreign Minister Arens.

Arens on E. Jerusalem Vote

TA1107044589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 11 Jul 89

[Text] In Jerusalem, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens told reporter Jack Katzenell he does not know at this stage just what the American delegation will be seeking when it arrives in Israel. In any event, this was the foreign minister's reaction to the Alignment's decision to recommend breaking up the national unity government:

[Begin recording] [Arens] There always have been people in the Labor Party, ever since this government was established, who oppose the participation of the Labor Party in the government and I suppose are always looking for an excuse to leave the government; so maybe they think they've found the excuse now, although I think their perceptions are completely divergent from reality, and I think that they'll be doing the country a great disservice if they force the electorate to go to elections again.

[Katzenell] We're told that an American delegation is arriving now—next week or in the midmonth—presumably to ask what about the Arabs of East Jerusalem, what about international supervision, and other questions which they've raised in the past. What is Israel going to tell them?

[Arens] Well, these are your assumptions. I've no idea what questions they're going to ask. As a matter of fact, I don't even know if they'll ask us any questions.

[Katzenell] Well, these questions were in the Baker document, were they not?

[Arens] These are questions that are not up for discussion at the present time. They are not on the agenda for discussion now.

[Katzenell] Even in the wake of the Likud resolution?

[Arens] Under all circumstances. [end recording]

Editorial Urges Rabin Cabinet Secession Move

TA0907121689 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 9 Jul 89 p 7

[Commentary by 'Aqiva Eldar: "Run, Rabin!"]

[Text] Following the strangling of Yitzhaq Shamir at the Likud Central Committee meeting, your party, Yitzhaq Rabin, is still not asking itself whether it should shake loose of the manacles with which it voluntarily tied itself, but when?

The answer is not lying in the pocket of the party's official leader, Shim'on Peres, who may want to, but is scared. Certainly the so-called "Force 17"—the group of doves that shamelessly sports that lame title—does not have the answer. Only one mouth, the one that undid the pact with the Likud, can do that. And that mouth is yours, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. Therefore, this call is directed to your ear: Go, go, go, before it is too late.

The fear that haunts you is very real and cannot be condemned: It is the fear of war among the Jews. You believe that without the Likud, without a political consensus, any political settlement will automatically be doomed. But the Likud Central Committee session clearly showed that if an arrangement without the Likud is impossible, one with it is equally so.

What you, Yitzhaq Rabin, are left with is the intifadah [uprising], pure and unadulterated, without a shred of hope for a settlement. Sharon and his ilk will turn you into cannon fodder each time a Jew is stabbed in the casbah, and the Americans will condemn you each time you blow up the home of the assailant.

The dovish bloc in your own party, your colleagues who had given you a long leash with which to tie Shamir to the plan, will no longer back you up if you stay in a government that can never be expected to do any good.

The Americans still refuse to believe that the prime minister, who talks to them like a rational man whenever he is in Washington, is actually pulling their leg. They do not want 'Arafat to publicly claim paternity over the people whose names he would provide to their ambassador in Tunis. They want him to make do with publishing their names in the intifadah leaflets.

Supposing the PLO agrees to swallow this, too. Have you forgotten what Shamir did to Peres with Murphy's list, that famous list that included Hanna Sinyurah and Fayiz Abu-Rahmah? How much time can one waste on names? They will find out that the cousin of candidate number five had once hurled a rock from the schoolyard, and return the list to its sender. Incidentally, if a representative list of Palestinians who are prepared to discuss elections can be found, who needs elections at all? We could talk to them directly about an interim arrangement, a permanent settlement, and the cessation of violence.

You, too, had your doubts. You believed that Shamir wanted to go along with you to elections and later give the Arabs some measure of autonomy. You thought that until the time comes for the crucial decision on territories for peace, we will already be deep into the process. Time will do its thing; the Palestinians and the people of Israel will grow a little wiser and shift their support toward the sane camp. Then, if everything goes according to plan, there may finally be a settlement between the two nations. But the plan was given a final burial royal at the Tel Aviv fairgrounds, to the Likud members' cheering hurrahs.

There is no turning back. Shamir may try to convince you that it is possible to continue to mislead everyone and ask that you ignore what happened on Wednesday. You might want to know that after the curtains closed on his miserable show, I asked him whether he thought the East Jerusalem Arabs could be excluded on election day. He said that the Arabs have not yet accepted the plan, so the question is irrelevant.

The Egyptians have already said that without Jerusalem and with the settlements there will be no elections. Husayn cares about the process as much as a king cares about democracy.

And the Palestinians? What Palestinians does he expect to answer him? Those who show up in his chambers one morning, declaring: "We have sent 'Arafat to the devil. Come on, let us discuss elections without Jerusalem and agree on some more settlements in Greater Israel—everything in the spirit of the Likud Central Committee's resolutions." Shamir said this was not what the press conference [as published] was about.

If you are motivated primarily out of the fear of a civil war—a war between a rightist opposition which is stronger than ever and a narrow Alignment government based on the fickle support of the religious parties—then why do you not lead the Alignment into opposition and leave Shamir to consort with the likes of Gandhi [Rehav'am Ze'evi], Ge'ula Kohen, and Raful [Refa'el Eytan]? Let Sharon handle defense matters. Let him deport, destroy, and eliminate the intifadah; Shamir, Meridor, and Olmert will be next in line.

Then they will come to you, begging that you extricate them from the disaster in the territories and from an unprecedented crisis with the Americans, the Egyptians, and Europe. It will not be the Likud that will ask you to come back. It will not cede the reins of power. It will be the people, if they are still left with a grain of sense.

Yitzhaq Rabin, this is your finest hour. Take Peres and run.

Aftermath of Likud Central Committee Vote Viewed

TA0707141789

[Editorial Report] The 7 July weekend Israeli press devotes extensive comment to the 5 July Likud Central Committee meeting that endorsed Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's peace initiative with the addenda demanded by his three party colleagues, Deputy Prime Minister David Levi, Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon, and Economics and Planning Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i. The analyses focus on two aspects of the impact of the Likud's unanimous vote: Its effect on the triangular Israeli-U.S.-PLO relations; and the significance of the resolution on Israeli domestic politics—both within the coalition, primarily insofar as the continued partnership with the Alignment in the national unity government and Shamir's stature as national leader are concerned, and the effect of the vote and the moves preceding it on the internal disputes among the Likud, particularly as regards the war of succession for Shamir's office.

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on page B1 carries a commentary by Yo'el Marcus entitled "That Is All We Have" in which the author contends that if the U.S. Administration or the Alignment thought Shamir has changed, they were "caught with their pants down:" "Shamir is Shamir," Marcus maintains. He did not need the Sharon-Levi-Moda'i troika to "throw a monkey wrench into the wheels of his own plan." Because the initiative was conceived "out of distress, with U.S. public sympathy eroding dangerously," Shamir regarded it "first of all as a trick, or at least a first-rate propaganda ploy to relieve the pressure from himself and his government." But, frightened by the dangers inherent in his own plan—"the most far-reaching initiative since the peace with Egypt," which could be interpreted as providing the infrastructure for a Palestinian state—Shamir backed out. Given its history of torpedoing "excellent chances for an arrangement," the Likud under Shamir's leadership is now left with "two extremist options: Negotiations with the PLO, or forceful oppression in the territories without a political plan. Both would lead Israel to dark times internally and to a brutal confrontation with the United States." Although Marcus concedes that Shamir would not like to reach such a confrontation with the United States, he concludes that "Shamir is Shamir, and that is all we have."

Writing on the same page of HA'ARETZ in a commentary entitled "The United States Has Lost an Interlocutor," A. Schweitzer notes that the United States has issued a restrained reaction to the Likud Central Committee vote, accepting at face value the prime minister's statement that nothing has changed, merely because "for the moment the United States has no other Israeli partner for a dialogue," even if Shamir is "a captive in the hands of his rivals within his own party." The United States "has use for the PLO only if it can clutch Shamir at the same time." There is therefore no rush in Washington to reassess the situation, as even the demise of the peace initiative will hardly be regarded as tragic. The Bush administration has attacked Middle East affairs "with gusto" because it felt that Israel and the PLO are now ready for talks on a settlement because of the ongoing Palestinian uprising in the territories. If, however, the administration is prepared to wait and let Israel "stew in its own juice," this may "shake Israel back into sanity."

The U.S. conception of Shamir as "the Israeli strongman by virtue of his standing as the Likud's unquestioned leader and the man who walks hand-in-hand with

Rabin," even if "Washington was never enamored of Shamir," is now history. "Israel is now left without an authoritative spokesman whose word is binding." Certainly "the winning troika of Levi, Sharon, or even Moda'i will not qualify." Consequently, it seems that "in this crooked and undesirable way, Yitzhaq Shamir attained a time-out from external nagging," which may have "always been the true purpose of his maneuverings." Whether this has caused "irreparable damage" to Israel is hard to say. "It is doubtful whether the PLO can renege on its declared readiness to reach an arrangement with the Zionist entity. And most importantly, the United States will not become a hater of Israel." Thus, even though further erosion in Israel's standing may be expected as "the word of its leaders is worthless and its famous internal stability is more a slogan than reality, these are correctible damages."

Writing in Tel Aviv HADASHOT on page 16 in a commentary entitled "They Clamped the Denver Boot on the Prime Minister," Ilan Kfir writes that although the Sharon camp in the Likud may regard the vote as a victory, "Shamir sees it differently: For him the entire central committee voted for his initiative." Yet "only time will tell whether the compromise was a political achievement for Shamir as the leader of the Likud, or whether it signaled his capitulation in the face of Sharon's threats." We will soon know whether "the reconciliation Shamir achieved in the Likud was worth the trouble of plunging into a government crisis with the Alignment and the specter of a confrontation with the United States, which was terribly upset with Shamir's speech, and liked the compromise proposal even less." Shamir thought that even though he "injured his unwritten alliance with Defense Minister Rabin," he would be able to "navigate between Sharon's coercion and the partnership with Rabin and the Alignment. The onus now lies upon Shamir to prove that the political initiative is real, not a propaganda gimmick." Thus, instead of shifting into "fifth gear" in view of the warming U.S.-PLO ties, "Sharon waved the burning hoops before Shamir who, like a tiger, had to jump through them." Nevertheless, some believe that both factors—the threats by the troika and the Pelletreau-Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf] talks, which Shamir regarded as a "slap in the face on the eve of the Likud Central Committee meeting—made equal contributions to motivating him. He therefore delivered an unequivocal message regarding talks with the PLO, the uprising, and the settlements, even though "this is a sensitive issue for the U.S. Administration."

Whether Shamir—"who surprised everyone by showing his ability to reach a partnership with the Alignment on a viable political initiative—can also pursue it, or whether he was shot down at the outset by Sharon," is up to him. Only he knows whether he really wants to "find a compromise with Rabin and Peres, and more importantly with the United States"—which implies that he believes in his initiative and truly desires it—or whether he "prefers to launch a peace for the Likud operation."

Writing on pages 1 and 18 of Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT's LESHABAT supplement, in a commentary entitled "The Lights in the Tel Aviv Fairgrounds Were Turned Off; Those in Labor Headquarters Were Turned On," Orli Azulay-Katz writes that although Shim'on Peres never "disguised his inclination to secede from the cabinet here and now," he can only "go as far as Rabin will let him." In fact, she claims, their differences boil down only to the length of time they are prepared to give the Likud to show that the initiative is really defunct. Yet internal disputes within the Labor Party will largely affect the decision on secession, as "any blow to the coalition's foundation will revive the leadership crisis in the Labor Party." The Alignment, she concludes, will likely "find a way to leave open the option of examining withdrawal from the government, but will not act upon it immediately." This will give the different anti-coalition pressure groups ample time to work for secession. The U.S. stand, too, will have a great bearing on this. To quote a Peres associate, "Shultz, too, had presented Shamir with a deadline and then rolled out the red carpet for him in Washington. If Baker does the same, the cabinet will remain intact as though nothing happened."

Writing on the same pages of the LESHABAT supplement, in a commentary entitled "The Prime Minister's Associates: Sharon Is on the Line," Bina Barzel postulates that Shamir believed the addenda did not harm his initiative. He knew that in the end he would emerge victorious, as "all the ministers, including Sharon, must abide by the resolution." If not, Shamir may even fire him. As "prestige is not first on his priority list," Shamir was ready to forgo it in order to achieve peace and unity in his party's ranks. Sharon's achievement is in placing the restrictions on the plan to preclude any sign of flexibility in negotiations over the initiative. This "brings the confrontation with the Alignment even closer," its withdrawal possibly constituting the added cost to the price Shamir will have to pay.

Barzel sees Sharon's forcing the Levi-Sharon-Moda'i troika on Shamir as another muzzling of Shamir, and notes that "having proved that together they can prevent Shamir from being the solitary leader of Likud, they plan to run a repeat of this performance in the future, too, each assisted by his colleagues in attaining his own interests." Having presented themselves as the alternative leadership in the post-Shamir era, Arens's standing suffered a blow. Moda'i "came in from the cold to which he was exiled by Shamir, Levi resumed the No 2 position," and "Sharon proved that his failure to kill the move to set up the unity government was merely temporary, and that as a good general he seizes an opportunity when it comes." But in the age of the fourth estate, the very declaration of victory strengthens the claimants' status.

Some people, says Barzel, believe that Shamir actually wanted to be restrained, as "he finds it convenient to face up to the increased U.S. pressure by leaning on the

Likud Central Committee's 'no's.' But while he wanted to win and pursue his game of solitaire, confronted with intimations of further coziness with 'Arafat, he may have viewed a stiff Likud upper lip as the lesser of two evils."

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV on page E3 carries Moshe Zaq's commentary, "The Stumbling Block." Zaq points out that the United States consistently makes mistakes when it comes to the PLO. "It was therefore necessary to signal to Washington that the framework of the Israeli initiative should be upheld scrupulously; that it should not be turned into a starting point for bargaining to effect a change in the direction of the original plan." Israel's intention in its peace initiative was to find "an alternative Palestinian leadership" to discuss the autonomy with since "there is nothing to discuss with the leadership in Tunis." The U.S. activity, however, "upset Israel's plans," exposing the election clause "in its nakedness." "The U.S. appeal to the PLO on elections won the PLO the status of a party eligible to present preconditions, indicating that it enjoys equal status," says Zaq. The Likud vote never changed the initiative or its goals. "It was intended to provide guidance for the Likud representatives in formulating the responses to the United States, when this issue comes up for discussion in the cabinet." Since the United States did not reject outright the PLO's or Egypt's conditions, "there is no justification" for it to describe the Likud vote as a "a blow to the peace process." "If the United States were convinced that it is possible to find an alternative leadership in Israel with which it might be possible to reach an arrangement, it may have been tempted to assist this reshuffle. But the assessment in Washington is different, so it can safely be assumed that the door will not be slammed in Shamir's face." After all, "the Americans have no alternative plan to offer."

The same page of MA'ARIV carries Yosef Harif's commentary, "Shamir Signals to Washington." Harif notes that while Shamir's confidants believe that the United States realizes that engaging in talks with the PLO will not promote the political process but hamper it, "Shamir himself continually kept his cool and abstained from criticizing the administration, although he clearly discerned Secretary of State Baker's covert trends." In his meeting this week with Senator Orrin Hatch, however, "it became evident that Shamir was beginning to lose patience," although he has "taken a vow of silence because he wants to avoid a confrontation with the United States." Since the United States favors a territorial compromise under any label, "otherwise it would have nothing to discuss with the PLO," and since despite its desire to keep the content of the Pelletreau-Abu-Iyad contacts secret, word of their meeting was leaked by Arab sources, and "now there is no more point in playing hide-and-seek." Shamir was forced to state all his "no's" firmly in the Likud forum. The administration was forced to realize that it cannot expect Rabin to influence Shamir, despite "the impression that Baker, with Bush's consent, ignored Yitzhaq Shamir as Baker's messengers dashed toward the PLO as though the devil were at their heels." So although "Shamir confessed that he is doing everything to avoid a clash with the administration," the message he sent this week via Hatch is significant: "If you plan to continue to be duped by the PLO—fine, but count me out!"

Ben-Aharon on Slated U.S. Delegation Visit

TA1007133589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] The director general of the Prime Minister's Office Yosi Ben-Aharon says there is no connection between next week's visit by a high-level U.S. delegation to Israel, and last week's decision by the Likud Central Committee.

Ben-Aharon pointed out that the new assistant secretary of state for Middle East affairs, John Kelly, was expected in the Middle East anyway. Reporter Jack Katzenell asked him why the delegation was upgraded—to be led by Laurence Eagleburger, No 2 in the State Department. Did not Secretary of State Baker's reaction to the Likud decision suggest that the United States is deeply concerned about the future of the peace initiative.

[Begin recording] [Ben-Aharon] I can understand from the American point of view a remark that this decision may not be conducive or helpful to the peace process because it raised objections on the part of the Arabs. This does not necessarily have any kind of negative impact on the chances of the implementation of the government initiative. May I recall to your attention the fact that no Arab factor has as yet reacted positively to Israel's initiative.

[Katzenell] This delegation is arriving next week, and it is probably going to ask: What about the East Jerusalem Arabs; what about international observers; what about the principle of territory in return for peace? What is the prime minister going to tell the Americans?

[Ben-Aharon] Now we are not negotiating with the United States. We want to have an Arab interlocutor—the Arabs, the Palestinian Arabs, and Arab governments that will join. What the United States is trying to do is to clarify as much as possible, and to bridge between the two sides. Unfortunately at this moment there is no Arab partner to this initiative. What we have is complete Arab rejection and continuation of the intifadah [uprising] and support of the intifadah. So we will have to take a look at the wider perspective when we talk to our American friends. Now with regard to the modalities: As soon as we have a partner, we firmly believe that we can make progress and respond to the various requests by the Arab partner to such clarifications as are necessary. [end recording]

Rockets Fired at IDF Force in S. Lebanon

TA1007140889 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] Several Katyusha rockets were launched at the security zone in southern Lebanon and at an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] force operating in the eastern sector. There were no casualties. The IDF soldiers returned fire.

2 IDF Soldiers Wounded North of Security Zone

TA1107042089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 11 Jul 89

[Text] Two soldiers were wounded in an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] operation carried out last night north of the security zone in southern Lebanon. One of the soldiers sustained serious injuries, while the other was slightly wounded. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the two were wounded by mortar fire aimed at an IDF unit. The unit returned fire. The soldier who sustained serious chest wounds was evacuated by helicopter and underwent emergency surgery by the light from searchlights in a Qiryat Shemona landing pad. After the operation, the soldier was transferred to Haifa's Rambam Hospital. The other wounded soldier was also evacuated to that hospital.

Our correspondent has learned from UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon] headquarters that last night, IDF cannons fired dozens of shells at terrorist targets north of the security zone. IDF assault helicopters took part in the pursuit of the terrorist.

Commentary Urges Closing of Green Line

TA0907150189 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 9 Jul 89 p 7

[Commentary by Teddy Preuss: "The Offensive: Closing the Border"]

[Text] It was fortunate—if we may use the expression—that the Herut Central Committee decided to adopt the radical braces—the four points proposed by Sharon and Levi—1 day prior to the Jerusalem highway massacre. Otherwise, a few smart alecks would have doubtlessly claimed that the soft approach, the readiness to fold up, and the prime minister's defeatism were the factors that encouraged radical elements to perpetrate the insane act that was carried out a day later. Similar allegations have been known to be made. It is to be hoped that no one from the left wing is fool enough to say what appears to be the opposite: Seeing that there is no hope, the Arabs carried out an immediate act of desperation. Up to now, only Radio Monte Carlo has voiced this inanity. Let us wait awhile, however: There is no shortage of fools.

Both the one and the other are nonsense. In 1978 the death bus was not abducted just because Menahem Begin capitulated by receiving Al-Sadat, nor was the Jerusalem bus dropped into a deep ravine in the wake of the proud consistency demonstrated by the Likud Central Committee. The two incidents, as well as others, were the result of bloodthirsty instincts.

Ideas, proposals, and solutions of all sorts and kinds will undoubtedly now be raised, such as an armed escort on each bus; armoring the bus driver's booth; showing an identity card when boarding a bus; and other such constructive ideas which, although measures designed to prevent the recurrence of murderous acts, are aimed at providing self-encouragement rather than being an answer for security needs.

The common denominator of all these suggestions is that the number of stimuli determines the response. After the PLO began penetrating the schools, it was decided to place guards (unarmed parents) at their gates. After terrorists placed numerous bombs in movies, supermarkets, universities, and other public places, civil defense guards were put at the entrances, where they now search every visitor. All these responses are similar to setting fire to gas stations, instead of bombing oil wells, to disrupt an enemy's fuel supply. These measures are purely defensive tactics, of which the formulators of Israel's defense doctrine are not particularly fond.

Most of the terrorist and murderous attacks were carried out by residents of the territories who come and go freely inside borders that are defensible. Despite Ari'el Sharon's frequent declarations that the lives of the Jews mean more than everything else, for the sake of the Greater Israel concept we have been jeopardizing those who live inside the State of Israel's borders. Recently, entry permits were finally introduced, albeit from the Gaza Strip only. If measures of this nature are deepened and broadened, terrorism will be restrained more efficiently than by the recruitment of tens of thousands of men to guard population centers and different facilities. This would be better, for instance, than the Petah Tiqva mayor's attempt to concentrate guest workers in one installation, thus preventing them from roaming free through the city; or the Ari'el mayor's order that all workers from the territories wear a quasi-yellow patch.

All these measures are defensive tactics. A strategic offensive would entail the safeguarding of Jewish lives not on their doorstep, but on the enemy's; a reiteration of the "out of the fence" strategy of the thirties in a different time and place: The Green Line crossing points would be closed, and no one would be allowed in! IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers would be deployed on this side of the border, while staying close to the vital strategic points on the other side. To foil the entry of foreign armies into the territories, the IDF would be deployed near the Jordan River and in Rafah; this would prevent the Jordanians, Iraqis, or Egyptians from showing up in the area. Residents of the territories would be free to come and go everywhere, including the Sinai and Jordan, but not beyond the Green Line. Those who wish to work in Israel would have to wait for a peace agreement. We will sit under our vines and fig trees, while they will sit under theirs, if they have any. They may, if they so wish, anoint the PLO, the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], the Mafia, King Husayn, or any other organization, as long as they do not come to roll buses into ravines in Israel.

Israelis who talk of the radicals taking over if the IDF pulls out of the territories should be told that today the archangels of peace are not necessarily the local leaders, either. We have already learned—as recently as last Thursday—that when the IDF and its arms are defensive, they are incapable of guaranteeing that murders of various kinds will not be carried out. Therefore, a strategic offensive in the form of a closed Green Line should be applied.

Editorial Views 'Cycle of Terrorism'

TA0907110789 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 9 Jul 89 p 2

[Editorial by Shmu'el Tal: "Israel Must Not Turn Into a Second Lebanon"]

[Text] The terrorists and leaders of the intifadah [uprising] will undoubtedly regard the funerals of the 14 Israelis, some of them children, as a major achievement. The horrible attack gives them reason to rub their palms in glee: A terrorist has single-handedly managed to bring terrorism one inch closer to Israeli territory, proving that even safe travel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem can no longer be taken for granted. Yet there is also no doubt that the weekend acts of vengeance carried out against Arabs inside Israel likewise pleased the terrorists: The cycle of terrorism is broadening, and all they have to do is sit back and watch Tunisian television reports from Israel on the stoning of Arab vehicles in the Negev, the beating of innocent bathers near Caesarea, the organization of vendetta-seeking people in Israel, and attacks on leftist public figures.

Nothing would make the terrorists happier than to see democratic Israel, a country where the law rules, become a second Lebanon, where armed riffraff following the rules of the jungle reign. Israel is fighting two wars. We cannot afford the beginning of another one reaching virtually to our doorstep. Such a war may herald the beginning of an irreversible process of which we must be exceptionally wary.

The feelings of fury and anguish, justified though they may be, must remain contained and subdued: The police, the Shin Bet, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], and the legal authorities will handle terrorists legally. The terrorists must realize that Israel will not turn into a second Lebanon, and that through their deeds they are literally bringing disaster upon their heads, drawing farther and farther away from a solution that would allow them to extricate themselves from the plight.

Unemployment Rises 4 Percent in June

TA1007144489 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 10 Jul 89 p 7

[Report by the POST economic staff]

[Excerpt] The number of people registered as jobless by the National Insurance Institute [NII] rose 4 percent in June from the previous month to 46,000, the NII said yesterday.

The number seeking jobless benefits from the NII for the first time last month far outpaced the overall growth, rising 12 percent to 9,100, the NII reported. [passage omitted]

Uprising Leaflets Disseminated Inside Green Line

TA1007164589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] Leaflets written by the Unified National Command of the Uprising, calling on the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers to disobey their commanders' orders, have been disseminated inside the Green Line for the first time. The leaflets, written in poor Hebrew and signed by the headquarters of the Palestine Popular Army, which is subordinate to the Unified National Command of the Uprising, were distributed in Ramla and on the Ramla-Mishmar Ayyalon road, apparently from a passing vehicle. Our correspondent Arye Gus notes that leaflets in Hebrew conveying a similar message were distributed in Nabulus approximately 1 year ago.

'Wanted' Youth Killed in Ramallah 10 Jul

TA1007114089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] A young Arab was shot and killed in Ramallah, after he refused to obey an order by security forces to halt. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the youth was wanted by the security forces. He had been involved in attacks on local residents who cooperated with Israel and coordinated violent activity in the area on behalf of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

This afternoon he refused to obey an order to stop issued by the security forces. Troops fired in the air and then shot the youth, killing him.

IDF Investigating 2 Deaths in Territories

TA1007172189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] Raja' Muhammad Salih was killed this evening in the town of Baytuniya near Ramallah in the course of a violent demonstration held in protest of the death of a youth from gunshots fired by the security forces this afternoon. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that Salih was fatally injured and was rushed to a Ramallah hospital, where he died of his wounds.

The death of another youth, a 15-year old who was hurt in a clash with soldiers, was reported in al-Burayj in the Gaza Strip. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is investigating both these incidents.

Update on Uprising Incidents 10 Jul

TA1107071189 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 11 Jul 89 p 4

[Report by Ori Nir, Mikhal Qedem, Fayiz 'Abbas, and David Hayun]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Arab sources report that six residents were wounded by army fire in the West Bank yesterday. Two residents were hurt in the village of al-Mughayyir and a man was critically injured in the village of Ya'bad. Another man was shot at the Tapu'ah intersection next to the army checkpoint, apparently after he refused soldiers' orders to halt. More people were wounded in Dayr Jarir and Kafr al-Dik. One man was injured in the 'Askar refugee camp, and another man was wounded in the al-Fari'ah refugee camp near Nabulus on Sunday evening.

Nabulus residents complained that soldiers behaved brutally over the last 24 hours. Residents of Zawiyah reported that the Border Police harassed women and forced men to uproot fruit trees. [passage omitted]

A boy was shot in the stomach in the al-Burayj refugee camp. There were additional injuries in Gaza and in the Jabalyah, Khan Yunus, and al-Nusayrat refugee camps. Arab sources reported that 13 people were wounded, 2 of them seriously, in riots that broke out in the evening. [passage omitted]

Yahya al-Mu'ayyir, age 35 from Rafah, and Ilah Abu-Baradag, age 28 from Gaza, were beaten with clubs and iron bars by masked assailants after being suspected of collaborating with the Israeli authorities. They were hospitalized in serious condition.

Sa'ud Abu-Ramadan, age 26, a CBS news correspondent in Gaza, was arrested by the security forces 2 days ago. The journalists in the Gaza Strip are furious at his arrest and say that the security forces and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] harass journalists who report on the disturbances, thus harming the freedom of the press and democracy.

The IDF spokesman reported that Abu-Ramadan is imprisoned in the detention facility on the Gaza beach.

A Border Police patrol was attacked in Nazareth on Sunday at midnight. The policemen attempted to arrest a man who made an obscene gesture at them. A crowd gathered and prevented the policemen from carrying out the arrest. One of the crowd threw a stone and a stick at the policemen. The police arrested one suspect and are searching for two others who have been identified.

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 11 July in a report by Roni Shaqed and David Regev on page 4 adds that "Michel Male, a resident of Jerusalem, was slightly injured in the face and jaw near Hebron." The report explains that "he was on his way to visit relatives in Qiryat Arba' when he was attacked with stones north of Hebron. One of the stones struck his car and shattered its windshield, causing him injury."

In a pool report on the same page the paper adds that "a 48-year-old female resident of Herzliyya complained to the police yesterday that she had been hit in the head by a stone hurled from a passing car bearing license plates from the territories. The incident occurred on the Tel Aviv-Haifa highway, near Tel Barukh."

Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 0400 GMT on 11 July reports that "an Israeli taxi was attacked by stone throwers in the village of al-Zahiriyah, outside Jerusalem. The driver was struck and wounded. Police said the driver fired several shots and wounded a 13 year old who was taken to al-Maqasid Hospital in Jerusalem. Police are investigating the shooting and whether it was committed in self-defense." A 26-year-old Gaza resident was arrested at the beach in Tel Aviv after he allegedly tried to drown a woman who was bathing in the sea. Police who arrived on the scene were told "that the suspect tried to drown the woman, but ran away when she yelled for help. Other bathers then caught him and beat him severely."

Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 11 July adds: "Last night, two Molotov cocktails were thrown at a Rishon Leziyyon building where Arab workers stay overnight. The bottles exploded but caused no damage or casualties."]

King Addresses British Defense College Students

JN1107070689 Amman Domestic Service in English 0430 GMT 11 Jul 89

[Report on speech by King Husayn at the Royal College of Defense Studies in London on 10 July]

[Text] His majesty the king said that the new concept for security is based on building trust, creating peace, and getting rid of conflict reasons among the countries. He added that this concept, which depends on cooperation, and not on confrontation, represents a good omen for a more peaceful world.

In a lecture before students of the British Royal Academy for Defense Studies [as heard] in London, his majesty the king said that the first step solved in this regard was the treaty banning the medium-range missiles, which will in the future lead to another reduction in troops and to ease international tension through settling regional conflicts, which has been achieved in Afghanistan, Namibia, and Cambodia.

His majesty the king analyzed the new understanding for regional security concerning the important development in the Middle East area through Jordan's dismantling of legal and administrative links with the West Bank. This, he added, gave a new political mechanism that led to new chances for peace and the acceptance of Iran to the United Nations Security Council Resolution No 598 which called for a cease-fire between Iran and Iraq. It also led, the king said, to the forming of the Arab Cooperation Council for strengthening economic integration among the council's four countries.

His majesty the king said that severing the legal and administrative links with the West Bank focused on the human and political issue, which is the core of the Middle East conflict. It is the Palestinian issue. It also drew the world attention that peace in the Middle East region will never last without bringing about an acceptable peaceful settlement that allows the Palestinians in the occupied Arab lands to practice their national rights in self-determination. This new focus, the king added, in addition to acceptance of the Palestine Liberation Organization of peace requirements, the continued uprising in the occupied Arab territories, and easing of world tension led to increasing international interest in solving the Middle East issue.

1st Elections in 23 Years Planned for 16 Nov

JN0507180289 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1720 GMT 5 Jul 89

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Excerpts] A royal decree was issued today approving the amendment of the electoral law as submitted by the Council of Ministers. [passage omitted]

Our radio has learned that the elections, the first in the kingdom in 23 years, will be held on 16 November. The registration of voters will begin in the next few days. There were no amemdments to Article 18 of the [electoral] law on conditions for running for parliament, which stipulates that the candidate must not be affilated with banned groupings whose objectives and principles conflict with the provisions of the Constitution. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Sends Condolences to Saudi Arabia

JN1107120489 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 11 Jul 89

[Text] Amman—His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir has issued the following statement:

We heard with feelings of great pain the news of the two explosions in Holy Mecca, which were aimed against the pious pilgrims of the holy mosque. They were perpetrated by people who are hostile to Islam and who aim to terrorize the holy mosque pilgrims during the hajj season and the sacred months. This led to the death of one person and injured 16 others.

Jordan strongly condemns these terrorist acts and the suspicious and repeated attempts to expose the holy mosque pilgrims to terrorist and subversive acts while performing their hajj rituals. These acts are an insult to the Muslims' holy shrines and feelings.

While condemning these criminal acts, we send our deepest condolences to the Saudi Arabian Government and to the injured and their families. We wish the fraternal Saudi Arabian people and the holy mosque pilgrims every success.

Foreign Minister Views Domestic, Regional Affairs

JN1007124889 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 10 Jul 89 pp 1, 17

[By Tawfiq 'Abid]

[Text] Amman—Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has reaffirmed that Jordan will never negotiate on Palestinian rights on behalf of the Palestinians. He said relations between Jordan and the PLO have never been as clear and stable as they are now. He said: We support the PLO in its efforts toward a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Responding to questions posed by Jordanian expatriates in their fifth conference yesterday, Al-Qasim said that a solution to the Palestine question is not possible without the effective participation by the PLO, the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, given that it is the main party responsible for reaching an acceptable solution with the opposite side [Israel].

Al-Qasim added: The UN Security Council Resolution [242] calls for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the territories occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem. There will be no new move toward peace without Jerusalem. This point is clear to the parties involved in the Middle East dispute if negotiations through an international peace conference are to be started.

Al-Qasim described Shamir's election plan as being aimed at "derailing the Palestinian peace train," and came as a response to the success of Palestinian international diplomacy. He said: We are now going through the most important stage in the history of the Palestine question. He affirmed the intifadah [uprising] is the most important event since the Balfour Declaration.

Al-Qasim said: The Palestinians are now directly responsible for their cause, and no longer have to wait for somebody else to liberate them. He added: The blessed intifadah has begun to change Israeli concepts. It reversed standard views, drew world attention again to the Palestine question, and set the beginnings of a solution for this intricate problem, Al-Qasim said.

He added that the intifadah is the light which heralds an end to the occupation through coordination and cooperation between the steadfast people in the occupied homeland and their brothers abroad who help and support them.

He added: We urged our brothers in the PLO not to reject the principle of elections, which, however, must take place within a sound and healthy process and under international supervision leading to the establishment of their political rights, including the right to self-determination. He said: The occupied territory will not produce a leadership that can hold negotiations with Israel distinct from the PLO.

On the economic situation in Jordan, Al-Qasim said there is a connection between the political and economic situations. He said: We experienced a similar situation in 1978 before the Baghdad summit when enormous pressures were put on Jordan. He said political pressures were turned into economic ones to make Jordan yield and accept a formula against its interest and those of the Palestine cause.

He said Jordan's position was clear during that period, and will continue to be so. He indicated that the region witnessed new circumstances, especially the Iraq-Iran war, which prevented some Arab brethren from honoring their promised financial aid to Jordan.

He said some Arab Gulf states, alarmed by the Iranian threat, shifted their aid priority to Iraq to enable it to resist Iranian aggression.

He added that Saudi Arabia is the only Arab state which has wholly fulfilled its commitments toward Jordan, while some Arab states which pledged to extend support to Jordan in accordance with the Baghdad summit failed to pay one thousandth of a dinar.

Al-Qasim said: We are now facing difficulties, part of which is our fault as we carried out a number of projects which cost more than we planned for. He said this situation must be dealt with immediately. He affirmed there is a relationship between the current economic situation and the pressures that were put on Jordan, and which might be exerted in the future as well.

Regarding the relationship between the Arab groupings and the Arab League, Al-Qasim said: In its endeavor to achieve Arab unity, Jordan proceeds from the Arab League whose charter is considered one of the best charters and we have nothing against it. However, practice has revealed a defect in the Arab League as its resolutions must be adopted unanimously. He said: I firmly believe that these goupings complement each other and that they are part of the Arab League and work under its umbrella.

Regarding the status of the dialogue between the United States and the PLO, he said that the Palestinian diplomacy has put the U.S. Administration and Israel in an embarrassing position and forced the administration to react to the need for a dialogue aimed at a comprehensive peace process to end the Arab-Israeli conflict.

He said the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative, is the party concerned in negotiations to obtain the rights of those whom it represents and restore the land they lost. The United States found it essential to deal with the PLO after discovering that the Camp David accords had not led to the required peace even though it was signed with the largest Arab state.

Responding to a question, Al-Qasim said Jordan seeks and demands that the summit meetings should be held in November every year because there are innumerable good reasons for clearing the Arab atmosphere and for discussing views on various issues. Several instances of reconciliation have taken place among Arab leaders in an atmosphere of frankness, clarity, and constructive dialogue, he said.

He said the state of international reconciliation and detente between the two superpowers can be a positive factor in leading to detente in other areas as a result of the new relations between the Soviet Union and the United States. The present atmosphere has yielded results in overcoming objections to the Soviet Union's participation in the international peace conference on the Middle East. This obstacle has been removed and the only remaining obstacle is Israel. Referring to the Soviet-Iranian accord, he said: What is more important in our opinion is the change in the political rather than the military position. In terms of the principle of providing arms to a state in our region that continues to view military means as the basis for dealing with Iraq and others, it is a very serious indication. He added: We hoped that the Soviet Union would turn the cease-fire between Iraq and Iran into permanent peace between the two countries. He went on to say: The great powers' relations stem from their own interests at the expense of small ones, and not from the objectivity and justice we all seek.

Al-Qasim stressed that as Arab states, our only option is to act in cohesion and solidarity so that we can be aware of what the great powers are doing around us and overcome our difficulties.

Replying to a question, he said coordination between Jordan and the PLO is based on solid grounds. We, he said, exchange information and the Palestinian brothers provide us with the results of their dialogue with the U.S. Administration or their contacts with the EC and Jewish communities in the United States, as well as their assessment of the stages through which the Palestine question is passing. We support dialogue with these communities because they influence American life.

Regarding developments in Lebanon, Al-Qasim said His Majesty King Husayn suggested at the Casablanca summit the idea of sending an Arab peacekeeping force from Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, the United Arab Emirates, Tunisia, Sudan, Egypt, and Syria to pave the way for Lebanese reconciliation and to protect Syria against any Israeli attack via Lebanon. He said Syria wants see Lebanon established on a basis that maintains its rights and prevents Israel from using Lebanese territory to launch an offensive against it. Al-Qasim drew attention to the Iranian presence in Lebanon, whether through Hizballah or the Revolutionary Guards, by which Iran is trying to achieve aims it had earlier failed to achieve in its aggression against Iraq. This problem must be resolved, he said, or it will continue to be an ambush benefitting the enemies of this nation.

He added that Jordan also proposed strengthening the UN forces in southern Lebanon and giving them new powers, stressing that Jordan supports the tripartite committee strongly and without reservation. He added: The committee should not fail to achieve Lebanese reconciliation.

He said the Lebanese must be helped to reorganize their country in the absence of fear and killing, and added that the Islamic party links presidential elections to constitutional reforms for fear that the elected president might disavow the promises he made before his election.

Al-Qasim added: The political life and rights of all the Lebanese factions should be reassessed as one faction is practicing 30 percent of political and economic life. [sentence as published]

Al-Qasim on West Bank Disengagement, Iraq-Iran

JN0907113689 Amman Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim has said that Jordan's severance of legal and administrative ties with the occupied West Bank was to put the parties to the conflict before their responsibilities and to end accusations that Jordan was competing with others to represent the Palestinians.

Addressing the morning session of the fifth expatriates conference on the Kingdom's foreign policy, the minister said: After the PLO's new position emerged, the Arab position became unanimous and oriented towards finding a peace settlement to the Arab-Israeli dispute. This position, he said, was forged 20 years after Jordan and Egypt accepted United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 providing the principle for settlement.

Mr al-Qasim said Jordan was seriously working to boost international efforts for the implementation of Security Council Resolution 598 that calls for ending the Iraq-Iran conflict and transforming the present Gulf cease-fire into permanent peace in the region.

The minister said Jordan was supporting the mission of a high-level Arab League committee charged with restoring peace to Lebanon.

International Conference Said Only Option

JN1107094089 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 11 Jul 89 p 4

["Weekly Political Pulse" column by Walid al-Sa'di: "International Conference Remains Only Viable Option"]

[Text] The winner of the stalemated peace process in the Middle East is clearly the cause of extremism. Of late one has seen more manifestation of extremism than ever. Especially ominous is the rise to power and fame of the extremist of the extreme in Israel as evidenced by the capitulation of Shamir to the terms and conditions of Sharon, Levi and Mod'ai. On the Palestinian side, despair and frustration are also driving the Palestinian people under occupation to extremist actions and reactions. All in all the cause of peace has become the obvious victim and the stagnation of the so-called peace process in the Middle East the villain.

At this critical stage of Middle Eastern politics only Washington has the real clout and prowess to reverse the course of extremism and despair, assuming it wants to play such a noble role. There are many reasons why this proposition is true. To begin with, the U.S. can be credited with the primary responsibility for thwarting all international efforts to convene an international conference on the Middle East. The Israeli opposition to the conference idea would not have been able to withstand all the international pressures exerted in support of holding such a conference had the U.S. government refrained from aiding and abetting such an Israeli stance. By choosing to accommodate Israel on this point for so long, Israel's phobia against the active involvement of the U.N. Security Council in the search for a permanent settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflicts became fortified more than ever. Accordingly, to catapult the peace process in its proper context and course once again would require the return to the only remaining viable way to bring the Palestinian question to peaceful resolution, namely, the principle of holding an international conference under the auspices of the U.N. Security Council.

The relevancy of holding an international conference goes beyond its format and its cosmetic features. After decades of bitter conflicts between Israel and the Arab World, it must have dawned on everyone concerned that the nature and dimensions of the differences between the two sides are objective. In other words the gap between Israel and the Arab parties most directly involved in the conflict is too wide and substantive to be bridged without the active participation of an international arbitration machinery. Left alone, there is credible doubt that the Palestinians and the Israelis would ever succeed in resolving the complex issues that divided them for so long.

That is exactly why the election formula that was floated by Israel's prime minister was doomed to failure right from the start and even before the revelation of its true colours. Had Sharon, Levi and Mod'ai stayed quiet for the time being and kept their conditions secret for a while, it is sure that the same very stipulations would have surfaced in one form or another along the path of the election idea. With all fairness there is nothing inherently wrong with elections, per se, as they are the most scientific and honest way to gauge the sentiment and aspirations of the people. What was fatally wrong about the election idea is the underlining Israeli conviction that it must never be allowed to come to full fruition. Luckily, Sharon and his clique chose to expose the true dimensions and scope of such elections in a rather precipitous way for the whole world to see. In this context the Israeli trio rendered the Arab parties great service by revealing their cards before the poker game was played out.

There is no escape from the conclusion that only the convening of an international conference under the aegis of the U.N. Security Council can rescue the peace process from imminent death. The Arabs and Israelis are obviously in need for a midwife to deliver the much sought after peace from the womb of fruitless efforts and experiments. The Middle East has had more than its share of still births and now is the time to resort to more sane methods to bring peace to the region.

Prime Minister Leaves for Abu Dhabi 8 Jul

JN0807153289 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Text] Amman—His excellency the prime minister, Al-Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir, this afternoon left Amman for Abu Dhabi on a working visit during which he will convey a message from His Majesty King Husayn to his brother, His Highness Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan al-Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates.

His excellency the prime minister is accompanied by Muhammad Sa'id al-Nabulsi, governor of the Central Bank of Jordan.

The prime minister was seen off at the airport by the deputy prime minister and interior minister, the deputy prime minister and minister of state for economic affairs, and a number of ministers. He was also seen off by the United Arab Emirates ambassador in Amman.

Returns to Amman 9 Jul

JN0907155489 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] Amman—Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir returned to Amman today following a short working visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE] during which he conveyed a message from His Majesty King Husayn to his brother, UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan al-Nuhayyan. He also held talks with Shaykh Zayid on relations between the two fraternal countries and issues of common interest.

Shaykh Zayid asked the prime minister to convey his greetings and good wishes to his brother His Majesty King Husayn.

He was received at the airport by the two deputy prime ministers, the interior minister, and the foreign minister; a number of ministers; and the UAE ambassador in Amman.

Cooperation Agreements Signed

JN1107072989 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 11 Jul 89

[Excerpts] His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd ibn-Shakir returned to Amman from Damascus last night following a 2-day official to the Syrian Arab Republic. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir and Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi signed the minutes of the meetings of the Jordanian-Syrian joint committee last night. The minutes cover bilateral cooperation in all fields. Ziyad 'Innab, minister of industry and trade; and Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi, Syrian minister of economy and foreign trade, signed an equal trade deal under which a number of commodities and materials will be exchanged between the two sisterly countries.

The committee endorsed an agreement to establish trade centers in both countries. The agreement was signed in Damascus last week, according to which a Jordanian commercial center was established in Damascus and a Syrian center in Amman. The higher committee also endorsed the minutes of Jordanian-Syrian subcommittees stemming from the higher committee. The minutes cover spheres of bilateral cooperation in the fields of industrial coordination, transport, electricity, agriculture, supply, tourism, culture, aviation, and air transportation.

King Husayn Condoles Gorbachev on Gromyko's Death

JN0407145289 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 4 Jul 89

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has sent a cable to His Excellency Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in which he expressed his heartfelt condolences and those of the Jordanian Government and people on the death of former President Andrey Gromyko who died on Sunday.

His majesty noted the pioneer role of the late president in the world as well as his prominent efforts in the service of world peace issues.

Ministry of Supply Warns Against Hoarding

JN1007133389 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] Amman—An official source has announced the following:

The Ministry of Supply has, of late, noticed an unusual rush by merchants and the public to buy and hoard certain staples, especially sugar, rice, and vegetable oil in quantities disproportionate to our average consumption.

The ministry would like to stress to the general public that all foodstuffs are available in sufficient quantities to meet the Kingdom's needs for over 6 months. The ministry further asserts that such staples as sugar, rice, and milk are available in large quantities and at fixed prices. Their prices are not subject to any increases. Substantial quantities of these goods are now at the Port of al-'Aqaba and are due for unloading in the next few days.

Meanwhile, in concert with the competent auhorities, the Ministry of Supply has tightened controls and inspection of the warehouses of merchants who deal in foodstuffs. It emerged that there is an ample supply of these hoarded goods. Action has been taken to ensure their wider distribution to retailers and the civilian and military corporations to ensure their accessibility to all citizens.

Merchants who manipulate set prices and hoard staples and consumer goods will be subject to the strictest disciplinary action. Toward that end, the necessary measures have been worked out with the competent authorities.

The Ministry of Supply further announces that there is a substantial stock of the vegetable oil and that it is being distributed to all the merchants and the civilian and military corporations dealing with the commodity.

The Ministry of Supply urges members of the general public to alert its offices in Amman and all the governorates to any merchant illegally hoarding goods or withholding them from consumers. The public are further urged not to make purchases with a view to hoarding as this may be render the goods unfit for consumption. The goods are available in substatial quantities at fixed, stable prices.

Authorities Seize Staples

JN1107074689 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 11 Jul 89 p 1

[By Faysal al-Shubul]

[Text] Amman—Competent authorities, in cooperation with the Ministry of Supply, have forced a quarter of a million boxes of vegetable ghee (3 million tins) out of a private warehouse in Amman and placed them on the market. The authorities also seized large quantities of sugar in a private warehouse in Irbid.

General Eng 'Abd-al-Hadi al-Majali, director of the Public Security Directorate, affirmed that the directorate began to monitor the supply situation throughout the Kingdom yesterday in coordination with the Ministry of Supply.

Responding to a question by SAWT AL-SHA'B, Gen al-Majali said: We will question every merchant who tries to hoard staples and every citizen who tries to buy large quantities of goods that exceed his consumption needs.

He urged citizens to cooperate with the directorate's authorities and with the Ministry of Supply to put an end to such practices.

Central Bank Official on Economic Measures, IMF

JN1007062189 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 10 Jul 89 p 1

[Text] Amman (J.T)—The fifth Jordanian expatriate conference, during its session Sunday, heard during its working papers dealing with the Jordanian economy and the expatriates' role in developing the economy. [sentence as published]

Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Deputy Governor Muhammad Salih al-Hurani urged expatriates to contribute to helping their country through its present difficult economic circumstances.

Al-Hurani said that the CBJ intends to launch a new proposal defining the relationship between expatriates and their homeland. "The CBJ has actually begun to prepare a draft plan to issue bonds in foreign currency whose values and interest would be paid in foreign currency," Al-Hurani said.

"Reviewing the economic measures the government has adopted to restore stability to the dinar, Al-Hurani referred to the CBJ's decision to link the dinar to a basket of currencies, its endeavours to rebuild the CBJ's reserves of foreign currency, and controlled spending of foreign currency to meet the needs of the country in accordance with defined priorities.

Noting that the policy of interest rates will be "flexible," Al-Hurani said that effective July 1, 1989, the CBJ began to intervene in the market to influence the dinar's rate of exchange by selling foreign currency to banks and thus meeting the needs of the citizens.

He said that "this intervention will contribute to the stability of the dinar's rate of exchange and curtail demand for foreign currency in the black market."

Referring to measures considered to strengthen the Jordanian economy, al-Hurani said that a medium-term economic plan was prepared in conjunction with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. This plan, he said, is based on attaining stability in the dinar's rate of exchange, attaining an average gross national product (GNP) growth of four per cent by 1992, reducing the estimated inflation of 14 percent to seven per cent by 1993 and increasing self-reliance with regard to the budget. He said that implmenting this plan ensures getting further funds from the IMF and the World Bank as well as rescheduling foreign debts.

Income Tax Department Director General Salman al-Tarawinah told the conference that Jordan's policy aimed at eliminating the budget deficit, preserving the Kingdom's international credibility and supplying the public treasury with funds. It also provides for creating optimum conditions for investment, and entrenching social justice to enable every citizen contribute to build the homeland, he said.

Al-Tarawineh also summarised the Kingdom's income tax policy.

Ministry of Industry and Trade Advisor 'Izzat al-'Uzayzi told the conference that the government was going ahead in "containing the effects and repercussions of the economic deterioration by presenting spontaneous and long-term solutions." He also outlined opportunities for investment in Jordan.

The conference resumes its sessions Monday with a morning session devoted to science and technology and their role in developing the country and an evening session devoted to the role of expatriates. One of the expatriates will present a working paper in this regard.

Paper Notes Increase in Expatriates' Remittances

JN1007080589 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 10 Jul 89 p 3

[By Muhammad Amin]

[Text] Remittances by Jordanians working abroad calculated in dinars have achieved a noticeable increase in 1988. Remittances reached 335.7 million dinars in 1988 compared to 317.7 million dinars in 1987; in other words an increase of 18 million dinars.

Official figures show that the remittances by Jordanians working abroad covered 52.6 percent of the deficit in the balance of trade, thereby boosting Jordan's balance of payments. The deficit in Jordan's balance of trade reached 638.5 million dinars last year. Remittances also contribute to the increase in the Kingdom's foreign currency assets which reached 953.7 million dinars last year. Remittances formed 51.6 percent of the Kingdom's gold and foreign currency assets during the period 1983-1987.

It is noteworthy that the remittances which are recorded in the statistics of the balance of payments represent only those transferred through official banking channels. However, a considerable part of the remittances, estimated at 30-50 percent, is transferred through unofficial channels.

The number of Jordanians at all professional levels working abroad is estimated at 340,000. About 85 percent of them are concentrated in the Arab Gulf. Their remittances represent an important source of foreign currency, a basic source of support for a wide sector of the population and for financing development efforts. Remittances play an important role in the overall economic developments in saving, capital formation, consumption, imports, and monetary supply. They make a considerable contribution to the gross national product.

Columnist Appointed Royal Court Press Adviser

JN1107092289 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 11 Jul 89 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T)—A cabinet decision has been taken appointed Khalid Mahadin as special adviser for press and information at the Royal Court.

Before his new appointment, Mahadin worked as columnist at the AL-RA'Y Arabic daily.

University President Appointed Adviser to King

JN1107093389 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 11 Jul 89 p 3

[Text] Amman (Petra)—His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the Regent, Monday [10 July] visited 'Abd al-Salam al-Majali and congratulated him on his appointment as advisor to His Majesty King Husayn. The Regent also paid tribute to the efforts Al-Majali exerted for the development of the University of Jordan. Prince Hasan was accompanied by Royal Court Chief Dhuqan al-Hindawi and Minister of Higher Education Nasir al-Din al-Asad. Mahmud al-Samrah was appointed president of the University of Jordan to succeed Al-Majali.

Terrorist Acts Said Planned for Saudi Arabia
NC1007192789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] The Central News Agency has reported that Lebanese security departments have received information on a plan sketched by political and partisan quarters opposed to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its regional and international policy to carry out specific acts of terrorism and sabotage in the Kingdom's oil installations and in Mecca, which was the scene of similar terrorist incidents 5 years ago.

The Lebanese departments fear that acts of sabotage could be carried out during the 'Id al-Adha next week.

Shaykh Sha'ban Criticizes Saudis on Hajj
LD1007203989 Tehran IRNA in English 2000 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] Beirut, July 10, IRNA—The head of the Islamic Tawhid (monotheism) Movement in Lebanon, on Monday termed the Saudi regime's barring of Muslims from performing the hajj pilgrimage as "declaration of war on Islam."

In an interview with IRNA in Tripoli, Lebanon Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban said "Saudi rulers are attempting to prevent the execution of divine laws and eliminate the shari'a (Islamic laws), through their atheist and blasphemous acts."

At no time in the history of Islam had the hajj pilgrimage been restricted to persons above the age of 40, while people under 40 years of age had always made up 80 percent of pilgrims, he said.

The ITM [Islamic Tawhid Movement] head said Saudi rulers and their counterparts in Arab states, fighting Islam on behalf of global unbelief, have all seized power with the help of colonialist powers.

He was talking on the occasion of the 2nd anniversary of the massacre of over 400 pilgrims, mainly Iranians, in Mecca by Saudi police.

Sha'ban also called on world Muslims to condemn the anti-Islamic acts being committed by the Al-Sa'ud dynasty.

Syrian Navy Bombards Maltese Tanker off Juniyah
JN1007162589 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] In London, the Lloyds Maritime Insurance Company has announced that the Syrian Navy bombarded a Maltese oil tanker in international waters off the Lebanese port of Juniyah yesterday, either from the land or from the sea. The tanker has penetrated the Syrian blockade and unloaded its cargo in Juniyah. The tanker was bombarded on its way back, according to Lloyds.

Tanker Reportedly Sunk
JN1007175189 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1712 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] The London-based Lloyds Maritime Insurance Company has announced that the Syrian Navy yesterday attacked a Maltese oil tanker called ("An Oil") with missiles, sinking it in international waters, 10 nautical miles off the Lebanese port of Juniyah. The tanker succeeded in penetrating the Syrian blockade imposed on the eastern areas of Beirut and unloaded 880,000 tonnes of oil in the port of Juniyah. The tanker was shelled by the Syrian Navy while it was on its way back. Lloyds said that the oil tanker sent distress signals and a vessel called "Cleoptara Sun" tried to rescue the Maltese tanker. However, the Syrian gunboats prevented it from doing so. The tanker's crew managed to leave it by lifeboats and were rescued by a Greek oil tanker 45 miles from where the incident took place. As for the Maltese tanker, it sank, as mentioned by the Lloyds Company sources.

'Awn Reportedly To Lift Naval Blockade by Force
NC1107093589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 11 Jul 89

[Text] Citing an aide to Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn, AP reports that Gen 'Awn can no longer endure the Syrian naval blockade and that he will try to use force, namely the Air Force, to lift the blockade. The aide went on to say that Gen 'Awn decided to resort to this step last week when Syrian gunboats entered Lebanese territorial waters to tighten the blockade. He noted that Gen 'Awn had conveyed this decision to the ambassadors of the five permanent members of the Security Council.

The aide added that U.S. Ambassador John McCarthy tried to persuade Gen 'Awn to postpone the issue of air strikes and avert any escalation of the acts of violence which would jeopardize the Arab committee's recent efforts. The aide said that Gen 'Awn decided not to take the U.S. ambassador's advice in view of the daily interception by Syrian gunboats of various ships heading to the Christian coast.

Air Force Planes Overfly Beirut, Coast
NC1107105489 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 11 Jul 89

[Text] At a time when the Arab tripartite committee is making intensive moves with regard to Lebanon in the wake of the obstacles placed in the way of the mission of Arab envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi by the group in the eastern area, a new development falling within the sphere of expanding the violence occurred today. General 'Awn resorted to implementing his threats by using the Air Force to lift the naval blockade by force. At 1200 today Air Force Hawker-hunters belonging to al-Yarzah's army command flew at a low altitude over the capital and the coast in provocative sorties which caused confusion and panic.

Commandeered Yacht Released in Larnaca

NC1107101989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1009 GMT 11 Jul 89

[Text] Radio Voice of Lebanon has learned that the yacht which the Syrian Navy forced to sail to Tartus last Sunday was released at dawn today. All the passengers were released and are now in Larnaca.

Resistance Claims Attack on Israeli Commando Unit

NC1107065789 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 11 Jul 89

[Text] Islamic resistance fighters carried out a surprise attack on an Israeli commando unit in Tallat al-Daydabah at 2000 yesterday. Violent fighting ensued between the Islamic fighters and Zionist unit during which machineguns and rockets were used. Several Zionists were either killed or wounded, causing the enemy to take leave of his senses and direct concentrated shellfire at various areas at the rate of one shell per second. Zionist helicopters raked the scene of clashes. The Islamic fighters returned safely to base.

Israeli Helicopters Rake Southern Areas

NC1007192289 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1900 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] In the south, Israeli helicopters raked the Jabal al-Dahr area, the vicinity of Qilya, and Zillaya at 2100 today. The same areas have been coming under artillery shelling since 2030. The shelling is still continuing.

Israeli Warplanes Overfly Sidon, Camps

NC1107104589 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1038 GMT 11 Jul 89

[Text] Our correspondent in Sidon has reported that the Israeli warplanes flew over the city of Sidon, Iqlim al-Tuffah and the Palestinian camps at 1200. The aircraft carried out mock raids at medium altitude and drew anti-aircraft fire.

Jordanian Officials Arrive in Damascus 9 Jul

JN0907141689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] At the invitation of Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd Ibn-Shakir will arrive in Damascus today on an official and cordial visit to Syria at the head of a technical and official delegation.

Zayd Ibn-Shakir will lead the Jordanian delegation to the meetings of the Syrian-Jordanian joint higher committee.

Tahir al-Masri, Jordanian deputy prime minister and minister of state for economic affairs; Ziyad 'Innab, minister of industry and trade; and Muhammad al-Saqqaf, secretary general of the Jordanian Industry and Trade Ministry, arrived in Damascus today to attend the committee's meetings.

They were received at Damascus International Airport by Dr Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade; the Jordanian ambassador in Damascus; and the embassy staff.

Jordanian Prime Minister Arrives

JN0907181789 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] Zayd Ibn-Shakir, prime minister of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, arrived in Damascus at 1900 today on a friendly and official visit to Syria at the invitation of Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi.

Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi was at head of those receiving him at Damascus International Airport. He was also received at the ramp by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the Jordanian ambassador in Damascus.

After Zayd Ibn-Shakir introduced members of his delegation to the prime minister, Al-Zu'bi and Ibn-Shakir moved to the dais and the national anthems of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic were played. They then reviewd the guard of honor.

Zayd Ibn-Shakir then shook hands with senior officials receiving him: Dr Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; the ministers; Damascus governor; governor of the Central Bank of Syria; the Syrian ambassador in Amman; and the staff of the Jordanian Embassy in Damascus.

The Jordanian prime minister is accompanied by an official and technical delegation including Tahir al-Masri, deputy prime minister and minister of state for economic affairs; Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Ibrahim Ayyub, minister of supply; Hisham al-Khatib, minister of energy and mineral resources, Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din, minister of state for cabinet affairs; Muhammad Salih al-Kilani, minister of water and irrigation; Ziyad 'Innab, minister of industry and trade; Hikmat al-Khammash, minister of transportation and communications; and Muhammad al-Saqqaf, secretary general of the Ministry of Industry.

After that, al-Zu'bi and Ibn-Shakir headed in an official motorcade to the Prime Ministry.

Ibn-Shakir made a statement to the SANA correspondent in which he asserted that this visit to Damascus comes within the framework of joint action and coordination to improve and develop the level of cooperation between the two fraternal countries and to discuss a number of issues of mutual interest. He said: Meetings of the higher Syria-Jordanian committee in Damascus constitute a continuation for what we have started many years ago.

Received by Al-Zu'bi

JN0907185789 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Damascus—Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd Ibn-Shakir and his accompanying delegation in his office at 1930 today. During the meeting, they had a friendly conversation and discussed issues of mutual concern.

Following that, the official round of talks was held under Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd Ibn-Shakir. [passage omitted]

Further on Meeting

JN1007082889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Damascus—[Passage omitted] At the beginning of the session, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi welcomed Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd Ibn-Shakir and his delegation, asserting the deep fraternal ties between the two peoples of Syria and Jordan. He added: The higher Syrian-Jordanian joint committee has achieved success in many fields and reached an advanced stage that brings us close to integration in many fields because we have common interests and similar objectives. This, al-Zu'bi added, prompts us to try harder to boost joint cooperation to achieve the objectives and aspirations of our people in the two sisterly states in the service of common Arab action and the higher national interests of the Arab nation.

Zayd Ibn-Shakir expressed his appreciation for the hospitality he and his delegation were accorded. He noted that the current meeting of the higher Syrian-Jordanian joint committee completes what the two states began more than 15 years ago. He added that we are proud of the results of the committee's work—results that should be a symbol of the relations between our two states. Ibn-Shakir added: We expect with confidence that the activities of this committee will expand in all fields to achieve more successes in light of the instructions and the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad and His Majesty King Husayn.

During this session, the two sides assessed the progress made in joint cooperation during the past period and discussed other topics on the higher committee's agenda.

It was decided to charge the competent subcommittees with discussing the various aspects of cooperation and activities to reinforce and develop cooperation between the two sisterly states.

Received by President al-Asad

JN1007123789 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1300 today al-Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir, prime minister of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan; Marwan al-Qasim, Jordanian deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din, Jordanian minister of state for cabinet affairs.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs.

Al-Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir conveyed to the president the greetings of King Husayn Ibn-Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The president accepted them with thanks and asked Ibn-Shakir to carry similar greetings to King Husayn.

Discussions centered on the situation in the region, bilateral relations, and the work of the higher Syrian-Jordanian joint committee.

Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd Ibn-Shakir at 1100 today. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Irrigation Minister Eng 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Madani, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Nasir Qaddur, and Construction and Building Minister Muhammad Marwan al-Farra. The meeting was attended on the Jordanian side by Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din, minister of state for cabinet affairs, and Eng Muhammad Salih al-Kilani, minister of water and irrigation.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed joint cooperation in various fields. They also reviewed joint projects and their progress, as well as means to consolidate and promote the best ways of approaching projects to complete and exploit them quickly in the joint interest of the peoples of Syria and Jordan. They also discussed a number of issues of joint interest.

In addition, technical subcommittees continued meetings this morning to study and discuss draft agreements and protocols of joint cooperation to be submitted to the higher Syrian-Jordanian joint committee.

Meanwhile, this morning, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Marwan al-Qasim, Jordanian deputy prime minister and foreign minister. During the meeting, they discussed the international situation, current developments in the region, and other Arab issues of joint interest.

Jordanian Prime Minister Departs

JN1107060889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 11 Jul 89

[Text] Jordanian Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir has expressed his pleasure at meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad and holding talks with him on issues of interest to the two fraternal countries and the Arab nation.

In a statement on leaving Damascus last night, Ibn-Shakir expressed his thanks and appreciation for the hospitality and good reception accorded him and his delegation. He noted the firm fraternal ties between the Arab peoples in the two countries. He added that the achievements of the current session of the joint higher committee are in the interest of the Arab peoples in both countries and in the interest of the Arab nation.

The final session of talks was held last night under Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and Jordanian Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir. A number of cooperation agreements in various fields and joint projects between the two sides were signed.

Jordanian Industry Minister Departs

JN0507165789 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1415 GMT 5 Jul 89

[Text] Jordanian Industry and Trade Minister Ziyad 'Innab left Damascus today after a visit to Syria lasting 3 days.

During the visit, he held talks with Industry Minister Antoine Jubran dealing with developing economic relations and industrial cooperation between the two countries.

Trade To Increase by $200 Million

JN0607063389 Amman Domestic Service in English 0430 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Text] The joint Jordanian-Syrian economic committee concluded 2 days of talks in Damascus last night with an agreement to increase trade exchanges between the two countries.

Ministry of Industry and Trade Undersecretary Muhammad al-Saqqa, who represented Jordan at the meetings, said the two sides agreed to implement the resolutions of the higher Jordanian-Syrian committee and increase the volume of trade to $200 million. He said the agreement would be endorsed by the higher committee which will be meeting in Damascus on Sunday under the co-chairmanship of Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir and his Syrian counterpart, Mahmud al-Zu'bi.

During yesterday's meetings, another agreement was also signed to set up trade centers in Damascus and Amman.

Egypt Stipulations Canceled; Velayati To Arrive

JN0607142589 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The conference of the liaison officers of the regional offices for the boycott of Israel concluded in Damascus today. The conferees decided to cancel the temporary emergency stipulations on Egypt. They also decided to lift the ban on dealing with a number of major foreign companies, including RCA, General Motors, Jeep Corp, American Motors, and other companies.

I have learned that Iranian Foreign Affairs Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati will arrive in Damascus tonight to hold talks described as highly important with the Syrian leadership.

President Sends Condolences on Gromyko's Death

JN0307202889 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 3 Jul 89

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad has sent the following cable of condolences to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on the death of former Soviet President Andrey Gromyko:

We have received with deep sorrow news about the death of Andrey Gromyko, former chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. The deceased exerted positive efforts to build and reinforce friendly and cooperation relations between Syria and the Soviet Union. When he was foreign minister, he worked to promote these relations in the interest of our two countries and peace. We also sensed the spirit of cordiality and honesty in our dealing with him as well as his eagerness to defend struggler nations' causes and goals in liberation and independence. In the name of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and in my own name, I extend to you and the Soviet leadership my heartfelt condolences, and through you, I extend my condolences to the family of the deceased.

Paper Views French-Soviet Declaration on Lebanon

JN0607060489 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 6 Jul 89

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-THAWRAH has discussed the Lebanese issue from the perspective of the joint French-Soviet declaration on Lebanon. It says: The declaration stresses the need for the actual halt to arms supplies to Lebanon—a reference to arms which the Iraqi regime is providing to the isolationist clique. The declaration coincides with growing nationalist demands for stopping arms exports to 'Awn. This indicates that the Lebanese nationalist position is in harmony with this positive international position, which holds that the Lebanese crisis can only be defused through stopping arms supplies to the Al-Yarzah general so that inflaming the Lebanese situation can be stopped.

AL-THAWRAH explains that this international position is in line with the Syrian viewpoint, which calls for stopping arms supplies to 'Awn. It says: The Iraqi regime is caught between the Arab and international opinion, which clearly calls for a halt to exporting arms to 'Awn and removing obstacles to Arab efforts to solve the Lebanese problem.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Addresses Mujahidin Commanders

LD1007210489 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1630 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Address by President Najibullah to mujahidin commanders; date, place not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Beginning at 0800 [0030 GMT] on the day of Arafa [12 July], that is, 1 day before 'Id al-Adha—when the hajjis of the Islamic world bow their heads in Mina and pray to Almighty God and when the hajjis of Afghanistan pray for the cessation of war and for the maintenance of peace in the country—the units and companies of the Republic of Afghanistan are to observe a cease-fire throughout Afghanistan. The world's Muslims, who are engaged in the pilgrimage to the house of God, are cursing Satan by throwing stones. The first day of 'Id they circle the Ka'bah and go to Safa and Marwah and promise God they will engage in good deeds.

During such auspicious days, we declare a cease-fire. It should not be unilateral act, however. We hope it will be multilaterally and immediately observed by all opposition armed forces. [passage omitted]

Supreme Defense Council Statement Issued

LD1007171689 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Statement issued by the Supreme Defense Council of the Republic of Afghanistan on 10 July—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: By blatently trampling underfoot the Geneva accords and the norms of international relations, by military participation in the battles around Jalalabad, by encouraging and leading the warmongering forces and the continuation of war and bloodshed in the Republic of Afghanistan, as well as by preparing the ground for activities, meetings, and visits between U.S. officials Peter Tomson and General H. Norman Schwarzkopf and the leaders of the extremist groups—which have taken place in order to encourage war and bloodshed in Afghanistan, Pakistan has recently created a new and serious situation concerning our country. As a result, Pakistan, more than ever before, has given the character of terrorism and banditry to the aggression and war against the Republic of Afghanistan.

The purpose of these extensive terrorist attacks, including the targeting of cities—among them Kabul, the country's capital—with missiles, which have been carried out under the direct instructions of the Pakistani militarists and in accordance with the new design of the United States and Pakistan, is to undermine the Republic of Afghanistan which has proved the righteousness of its policy on the international level, to exert military pressure on Afghanistan, and temporarily to deceive international public opinion about the defeats and disappointment of their followers.

In accordance with the April 1989 resolution of the Grand Assembly, which authorized the state to take all measures to continue the necessary response and reaction against aggression and to defend the national sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of Afghanistan, and to protect the life and property of the people in line with the legitimate demand of the people in the country, the Supreme Defense Council of the Republic of Afghanistan states:

All units and companies of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan are to to maintain complete combat readiness to defend the homeland;

All noble compatriots, all members of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA], national parties and organizations, courageous tribes of the country, social organizations, personalities, and leaders of the country are requested to rally with all their possibilities as a united body around the leadership of the Republic of Afghanistan to defend their beloved homeland which has been under aggression from Pakistan, and not to let the life, honor, pride, and sacred soil of the Afghans be trodden underfoot by the aggressive policy of Pakistan.

The Supreme Defense Council of the Republic of Afghanistan is turning to the leaders of the countries of the world, to the United Nations organizations, and to other credible international forums to inform them of the serious demand of the people of Afghanistan concerning the cessation of aggression by Pakistan. It demands that they exert pressure on Pakistan to refrain from this adventurous game which has grave consequences for peace and stability in the region and in the world.

The Supreme Defense Council of the Republic of Afghanistan resolutely declares that the continuation and intensification of Pakistani aggression and missile attacks on cities, including on the country's capital, which are being carried out under the direct instructions of Pakistan, are acts of an aggressive war by Pakistan and is taking all necessary measures and reciprocal actions for self-defense and to repel and rebuff aggression. All the painful consequences will rest with the military circles of Pakistan. Pakistan should know that the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan and the people of Afghanistan are in no way weak in the face of aggression by that country and are capable of defending themselves using all resources.

In accordance with the will of the freedom-loving and courageous people of Afghanistan the Republic of Afghanistan will give a resolute response to the situation which has been created by the Pakistani militarists and has disrupted the life, freedom, and the right of sovereignty of our people contrary to all international norms. The responsibility for its grave consequences will rest on the shoulders of the Pakistani aggressors.

Muhammadi Urges Maximum Support, Departs on Trip

BK1007114189 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] The defense minister for the Afghan interim government, Mawlawi Muhammad Nabi Muhammadi, has appealed to all friendly countries and organizations to provide maximum support to mujahidin in their fight against the Kabul regime. He said this in an interview to Afghan news agency in Islamabad before leaving for Saudi Arabia on an official visit. Replying to a question he said the war is continuing throughout Afghanistan and mujahidin's morale is very high.

Mujahidin Leaders Reject 'Arafat's Initiative

LD1007205489 Tehran IRNA in English 1915 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] London, July 10, IRNA—The Afghan interim government has rejected Yasir 'Arafat's peace plan formula, firstly because of 'Arafat's consistent pro-Moscow stance and secondly due to his efforts to persuade the mujahideen to share power with the puppet Najib gang, according to an AAP [AFGHAN PRESS AGENCY] dispatch monitored here Monday.

It said the Afghan leaders based in Pakistan had pointed out that 'Arafat's peace plan was controversial as was the PLO leader's personality in the context of the Afghan issue. Therefore the Afghan interim government was not even inclined to include the point in the agenda, it said.

Rebels Foil Regime's Attempt To Reopen Highway

BK1007155389 Hong Kong AFP in English 1547 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] Islamabad, July 10 (AFP)—Afghan mujahidin rebels foiled a new attempt by government troops Monday to reopen the Kabul-Jalalabad highway, killing 15 soldiers and destroying two tanks, the pro-resistance AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS (AIP) reported.

An Afghan army convoy tried to open the road from Kabul side, AIP said.

The mujahidin, led by commander 'Abdul Jabbar of Hezb-e Eslami Khalis faction, thwarted the troops' attempt at Tungi, some 80 kilometres east of Kabul, it said.

Afghan troops have made several attempts from the Jalalabad side to reopen the 120-kilometer (75-mile) highway since it was cut last Wednesday in a coordinated attack by four commanders of the Hezb-e Eslami Khalis faction, it said.

The highway was reopened by government troops last month after being under mujahidin control for more than 40 days.

Meanwhile, heavy fighting continued Monday in Chaparhar District 10 kilometers (six miles) south of Jalalabad, killing two guerrillas, AIP said, adding that government losses were high.

The agency said some 100 soldiers have defected and joined mujahidin ranks near Samar Kheyl garrison 20 kilometers (12 miles) south-east of Jalalabad. It said government troops were holding positions in the plains of Samar Kheyl as guerrillas stayed on mountaintops.

Some reports have said the Afghan army is planning to launch another offensive before the end of the week to push through the Samar Kheyl area and regain the Towr Kham post, some 55 kilometers further east on the border with Pakistan. The Afghan army lost control of Towr Kham in the historic Khyber Pass last November.

On Monday, the U.S special envoy to the Afghan resistance Peter Tomsen described the loss of Samar Kheyl as a "setback" for the mujahidin, but stressed that government troops did not have full control of the area.

Further Details

BK1107024089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 11 Jul 89

[Text] According to reports received from Afghanistan, the mujahidin yesterday foiled an attempt by Kabul regime troops to open the Kabul-Jalalabad highway and killed 15 troops and destroyed two tanks. The Kabul regime troops have also been unsuccessful in gaining full control of the Samar Kheyl area because the mujahidin continue to occupy peak positions in the nearby (Fauj Dinal) mountain range.

The mujahidin, in new operations, destroyed 13 military posts in Oruzgan Province and blocked all roads linking Tarin Kowt city, thus preventing ration supply to the city by Kabul regime troops.

12 Reported Dead in 'Big' Kabul Explosion

BK1007022889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] According to reports, more than 12 people were killed in a big explosion in the Afghan capital, Kabul. The reports say the mujahidin scored a direct hit in a rocket attack on an arms and ammunition depot near the capital's international airport. Flames and smoke could be seen rising above the city following the explosion.

Further on Rocket Attacks

BK1007155589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin are reported to have launched a rocket attack on the capital, Kabul, early this morning, hitting a large ammunition dump near the airport. The rockets, fired from the hills surrounding Kabul, set off a series of explosions at the ammo dump. According to newsmen, a big fire continued for about 2 hours, and flames were seen rising into the air along with repeated blasts. Newsmen were denied access to the ammunition depot, which is located in the military zone.

A rocket also slammed into an area populated mainly by government servants. Eight people were killed and more than 20 injured in the incident. The Afghan Central Bank and about six shops were damaged. Another rocket landed in the city center; two people were killed and 10 others injured. Officials in Kabul said about 16 rockets hit Kabul today, but they did not give details on the remaining 13 rockets.

Now it is understood that the mujahidin had launched an attack on the Presidency in Kabul on Thursday [6 July], killing 22 soldiers of the Kabul regime and wounding 12.

Commenting on certain setbacks of the mujahidin in the fighting, the defense minister of the Afghan interim government, Mawlawi Muhammad Nabi Muhammadi, said even now at least 3,000 Soviet soldiers are working in Afghanistan in the guise of technicians and advisers to help the Najibullah regime. Before departing, the Soviet forces left a huge arms and ammunition supply for the puppet regime, and even now the regime is being provided with extremely destructive types of weapons. On the other side, the friends of the mujahidin have abandoned them for the past 6 months. He said at certain war fronts the mujahidin have no weapons, and in other places they are experiencing severe arms shortages.

Rebels Fire 65 Missiles

LD1007163789 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Excerpt] At a time when our Muslim people are on the eve of celebrating 'Id al-Adha, the criminal extremists fired 65 surface-to-surface missiles last night and this morning at residential areas of Kabul and committed another unforgivable and shocking crime. They are revealing their true faces once again by carrying out such anti-Islamic and antihuman actions.

The BIA military section reports that as a result of the attack by these missiles which were launched by the sold-out extremists, 18 of our compatriots were martyred and 131 injured. The injured were transferred to hospital immediately. Some 71 of the injured were discharged from hospital after treatment and 60 others are under serious observation and treatment. One of the missiles fired by the sold-out extremists hit a depot of anti-Stinger positions located in the northwest area of Khayr Khana, as a result of which the depot was burned down but there was no loss of life. Also, two mosques and 20 houses were destroyed or partially damaged and a taxi was completely destroyed. [passage omitted]

Mujahidin Deny Rocketing Civilians

BK1107085689 Hong Kong AFP in English 0844 GMT 11 Jul 89

[Text] Islamabad, July 11 (AFP)—The Afghan resistance based in Pakistan Tuesday [11 July] denied responsibility for rocket attacks on Kabul Monday which left at least 20 civilians dead, a communique released here by the seven-party alliance said.

The resistance however, admitted that the mujahidin guerrillas fired rockets on an Army ammunition depot which was gutted in a huge fire, it said.

The statement said the attacks subsequent to the ammunition dump blast "killing innocent civilians" were "launched by the regime itself to defame the mujahidin." Monday's barrage, the heaviest for months, resulted in extensive damage to residential areas.

The communique strongly denied the Kabul government charge that the mujahidin targeted the civilian areas. "These allegations are absolutely baseless and false," the joint statement said. "The mujahidin are under strict instructions to aim at the enemy's military installations and observe great caution not to miss their targets," it said.

"We strongly condemn the rocket attacks on innocent civilians and appeal to the international community to make the Russians and their puppets stop committing more crimes in Afghanistan", it said in reference to the Soviet-backed Kabul government.

The world should ignore the "villainous propaganda campaign against the heroic mujahidin," the statement concluded.

'Fierce Fighting' Noted in Samar Kheyl

BK1107103089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1000 GMT 11 Jul 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say there is fierce fighting between mujahidin and Kabul regime forces in Samar Kheyl. The Kabul regime's aircraft are continuously bombing the mujahidin fortifications in order to protect the armored units besieged in the area. The rural population has been badly affected by this bombing, but it has not affected the fortifications of the mujahidin.

Bangladesh

Bill Limiting President to 2 Terms Passed

BK1007152689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1519 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] Dhaka, July 10 (AFP)—The Bangladesh parliament Monday passed a government-sponsored bill limiting the number of presidential terms to two, state-owned television announced.

The bill, which becomes the country's ninth constitutional amendment, limits the president to two five-year terms. The Constitution had previously put no limit to the president's term.

The legislation was passed unanimously after two days of debate, the television said.

The bill will allow Bangladesh President Hussain Muhammad Ershad, who came to power in a 1982 bloodless coup and was elected president in October 1986, to run for another five-year term in 1991.

The legislation was introduced by the government before the 300-member house on Thursday, and had been criticized by some opposition members for the hastiness with which it was passed.

The bill also includes the simultaneous election of the vice-president as a running mate of the president. Under the current system the vice-president was appointed by the president.

Critics of the bill have noted that if President Ershad runs for office when his current term expires in 1991 and wins, he will have spent nearly 15 years in power.

Reactions to Bill Noted

BK1107004889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1801 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] Dhaka, July 10 (AFP)—The Bangladesh Parliament "unanimously" passed a government-sponsored bill Monday [10 July] limiting the number of presidential terms to two, then ended its session, state-owned Bangladesh Television (BTV) said.

The bill, the country's ninth constitutional amendment, limits the president to two five-year terms. The constitution previously put no limit on the president's term.

The legislation was passed amid cheers with 272 votes in favour and none against, BTV said.

Speaker Shamsul Huda Chowdhury announced the results following the end of two days of debate during which the opposition criticised the hastiness in which the bill was carried through.

The legislation was introduced by the government before the 300-member House Thursday.

The amendment also included simultaneous election of the vice-president as a running mate of the president.

Under the current system, the vice-president was appointed by the president and remained in office as long as he enjoyed the president's confidence.

The bill would allow President Hussain Muhammad Ershad, who came to power in a 1982 bloodless coup and was elected president in October 1986, to run for another five-year term in 1991.

The prorogation order, terminating the 50-day session, was issued by President Ershad and read out by the House speaker soon after the amendment was passed, the official BSS news agency said.

"The house also passed the amendments to the rules of procedures of the Jatiya Sangsad (parliament) relating to the procedure of ratification of the appointment of a vice-president under the Constitution," BSS said.

The amendment, which needs the president's assent to become law, would take effect no later than March 1, 1991.

Supporters said the bill's passage was an "epoch-making" event and signified the possible end to continuous rule by an individual.

But critics said the bill should have been meticulously studied and debated, instead of being rushed through, as past amendments had not borne the desired fruits.

They said they feared that the law could be again amended by any future leader wishing to perpetuate his rule, including military rulers like General Ershad, who legalised his martial-law rule by amending the Constitution.

The critics said that if Gen. Ershad runs for office when his current term expires in 1991, and wins, he will have spent nearly 15 years in power.

Shiekh Hasina Wajed, chief of the opposition Awami League, said in a statement that the bill was aimed at perpetuating the rule of the present government and continue the presidential form of government, ignoring what he said was the overwhelming popular support for the parliamentary system.

Salam Talukder, secretary-general of the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) of Begum Khaleda Zia, said the bill was a "only ploy to prolong the rule of the present government."

The opposition, including a group of small leftist parties, said that as the Parliament had been elected through "farcical" elections, it could not amend the Constitution.

They said the right to amend the document was reserved only to a duly elected parliament.

Opposition parties, including the BNP and the Awami League, boycotted the March 1988 parliamentary elections, saying that fair polls were not possible under Gen. Ershad's regime.

The ruling Jatiya Party swept the voting and has a two-thirds parliamentary majority.

Dhaka University Closed After Violent Clashes

BK1107023689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1713 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] Dhaka, July 10 (AFP)—The authorities ordered Dhaka University closed Monday [10 July] after violent clashes between police and student activists who torched at least two vehicles.

Students were asked to vacate their dormitories by noon Tuesday (0600 GMT) to calm the campus gripped by violence for about two weeks, Vice Chancellor Abdul Mannan said.

He added that the closing came one day before a scheduled 16-day holiday for the Muslim Id festival.

Mr. Mannon said the dormitories would be searched by police unless students voluntarily left. "We have to clear the university of vandals," he said.

Activists of the Jatiyatabadi Chatra Dal (JCD), the student wing of Begum Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party, went on a rampage Monday, throwing stones and setting ablaze a truck and a car to demand the release of an arrested leader, police said.

They also broke the windshields of nine other vehicles passing on a road bordering the campus, they said.

Sirajul Huda, organising secretary of the JCD, had been arrested Friday during clashes between rival student groups on campus.

Earlier, the university syndicate, the highest policymaking body, postponed all scheduled examinations after the JCD fought with activists of Bangladesh Chatra League [BCL], the student wing of Shiekh Hasina Wajed's Awami League.

The violence erupted on July 2 after a BCL activist was allegedly assaulted by JCD members, sources said.

At least six students have so far been stabbed in campus clashes, according to witnesses.

Chittagong Hill Tract Council Chairmen Take Oath

BK0207162889 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Jul 89

[Text] The oath-taking ceremony of the newly-elected chairmen of the three district councils of Rangamati, Bandarban, and Kahgrachari was held in Dhaka this afternoon. The district council chairmen who took their oath are: Mr Gautam Dewan of Rangamati, (Prachin Puru) of Bandarban, and Samiran Kumar of Khagrachari. Administering the oath of office, Vice President A.K.M. Nurul Islam said that the district councils have been formed in Chittagong Hill Tracts to enable the people to develop their areas by themselves and help cherish their own culture, tradition, and heritage.

The newly-elected members of Rangamati, Bandarban, and Khagrachari district councils also took their oath of office today. The divisional commissioner of Chittagong administered the oath of office in the port city. Ninety members took oath. As already reported, elections to the three district councils of Chittagong Hill Tracts were held successfully amid high enthusiasm of both tribal and non-tribal people on the 25th of last month.

Meanwhile, the president has directed that the elected chairmen of Chittagong hill districts will enjoy the rank and status of a deputy minister as long as they hold the office.

Police Seize 10 Kg of Heroin in Dhaka 8 Jul

BK0807160289 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Text] Dhaka Metropolitan Police seized 10 kg of heroin worth about 10 crore taka from Sadar Ghat this morning. Acting on secret information, the police seized the drug from a launch which arrived at the Sadar Ghat launch terminal from Barisal.

India

Gandhi To Visit France, USSR, Pakistan

BK1007160389 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, will exchange views with top world leaders during his 2-day visit to France beginning on Wednesday for the bicentenary of the French Revolution. The American President, Mr George Bush, and the British prime minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, will be among the world leaders whom Mr Gandhi will meet in Paris.

Mr Gandhi is expected to have meetings with the Bangladesh president, Mr Ershad, the Pakistan prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, and leaders of several West African and other countries besides the French president, Mr Francois Mitterrand.

A high level official delegation, including the external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, will accompany the prime minister.

On return from France, Mr Gandhi will stopover in Moscow on the 15th of this month. He will have detailed talks with the Soviet president, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev. Mr Gandhi will leave Moscow for Islamabad 1 day after his arrival on the last lap of his 6-day three nation tour. He will return to Delhi on the 17th.

Defense Minister Returns, Comments on U.S. Trip

BK1007145789 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text]The defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, has said that his recent visit to the United States has led to a better appreciation of India's security concerns. Mr Pant, who had just returned from the visit, which took him to Canada also, was addressing a news conference in New Delhi today.

Mr Pant said that the U.S. Administration, which attached considerable importance to the visit, showed for the first time to an Indian delegation its highly classified defense facilities and equipment. This indicated the U.S. desire to strengthen the defense cooperation with India.

The defense minister had wide ranging discussions with the U.S. vice president, Mr Dan Quayle; the defense secretary, Mr Cheney; and the national security adviser, Mr Brent Scowcroft. Besides global and regional security issues, the talks covered India's missile program, cooperation in high technology areas and interaction between the services.

Mr Pant said the discussions were open and friendly. There were similarity of approach in a number issues while there were differences in perception in regard to some others. The discussion also briefly covered the successful Agni missile program. Mr Pant clarified that it was purely an indigenous effort and a technological demonstration.

In reply to a question, he said India has not accepted any restrictions from outside on its missile program.

Mr Pant said that he also found general appreciation of India's role as a country helping stabilization of the region.

Asked about the American view on the question of PKF [Peacekeeping Force] withdrawal from Sri Lanka, the defense minister said that the U.S. authorities have understood the complexities of the situation in the island. His impression is that there is appreciation of India's role in Sri Lanka.

Joint Naval Exercises Suggested

BK1107110489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1055 GMT 11 Jul 89

[Text] New Delhi, July 11 (AFP)—The United States last week suggested that the Indian and U.S. navies hold joint naval exercises in the Indian Ocean, but New Delhi's response was not positive, Defence Minister Krishna Chandra Pant was quoted as saying Tuesday [11 July].

The minister, speaking at a press conference Monday on his return from a visit to the United States, stopped short of saying that India, which has traditionally been dependent on the Soviet Union for some 60 percent of its defence requirements, had turned down the proposal.

But he told Indian reporters that he had told Washington that India must look at each proposal (for a joint exercise) separately, adding that the U.S. was a member of a military alliance.

The proposal, newspapers quoted him as saying, was totally different from allowing ships of foreign navies to call at Indian ports.

India, a leading member of the Non-aligned Movement, has in recent years undergone a huge blue-water navy expansion, and in April of 1988 aquired its first nuclear submarine on lease from the Soviet Union.

Mr. Pant told reporters the expansion was necessary because of India's long coastline, its offshore oil installations and for protection of its exclusive economic zone.

The defence minister said he believed his visit last week to the United States had led to a strengthening of Indo-U.S. relations and a better appreciation on Washington's part of Indian security concerns.

Other matters discussed at his meetings with U.S. defence officials, he said, had included India's test firing of its first medium range ballistic missile 'Agni' earlier this year, which was criticised by Washington, the U.S. supply of F-16 fighters to neighbouring Pakistan and the situation in Sri Lanka.

Washington understood the complexity of the problem in Sri Lanka, where the government has called for the withdrawal of a 45,000 strong Indian Peace Keeping Force by the end of this month, Mr. Pant said.

The defence minister added that Indo-U.S. technological cooperation in the defence field had figured prominently in the talks.

Commentary on Visit

BK0507153389 Delhi General Overseas English 1010 GMT 5 Jul 89

[H. Swaroop commentary]

[Text] India-American relations are poised to break new grounds. This is evident from the defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant's, just-concluded visit to the United States. Indications from Washington say that the Bush administration wants to have second thoughts on its India policy, start a fruitful dialogue, and remove irritants. It was, in fact, the Reagan administration which opened up new vistas of cooperation with India following the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi's, first visit to Washington in June 1985.

Viewed in this backdrop, the visit of Mr Pant assumes added significance, as the Indian minister in his talks with the U.S. vice president, national security adviser, and secretary of defense was able to apprise of the changing political scenario in what is now known as the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] region.

Mr Pant also explained to the U.S. leaders that India's missile technology development program is indigenous and Indians have their own technology with their own resources and expertise. Mr Pant rejected outright the U.S. proposal that India should accept the missile technology control regime. He made it clear that India would go ahead with its missile technology program.

Mr Pant also conveyed to U.S. leaders India's concern over continued induction of sophisticated weapons into Pakistan, particularly the reported U.S. decision to sale additional F-16 fighter aircraft to Islamabad. Supplies of sophisticated arms and aircraft [to Pakistan] are regarded a negative development in the context of the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan and the steps India is taking to improve relations with Pakistan. The U.S. leaders, however, justified the supply of additional F-16's saying that Pakistan needed them to replace the aging aircraft of its Air Force. Mr Pant also conveyed to the U.S. leaders India's concern at Pakistan's nuclear program.

During his tour of the United States, Mr Pant took the opportunity to clarify India's position toward Sri Lanka, and said that India does not intend to assume the role of a regional policeman and its action in the island were in response to a call by a neighbor. Reports from Washington suggest that U.S. has backed India's stand on Sri Lanka. It has reportedly recognized the need for India and Sri Lanka working out a timetable for withdrawal of the Indian Peacekeeping Force from the island.

A tangible result of Mr Pant's was the U.S. decision to sell to India major high technology components for the Light Combat Aircraft—LCA. The areas in which India would like quicker high-tech transfers have been identified. These comprised purchases of composites, fly-by-wire [as heard] technology, and [to] see development of such technology. The LCA project involves development of the airframe, avionics, and engines. The project identification for these have been completed. Production of prototype is next on the agenda. Mr Pant said he hoped to see a prototype fly by 1992 with the U.S.-made GE-404 engine. India is, however, developing its own engine, which will take some time. Dr Arunachalam, scientific adviser to the Government of India who accompanied Mr Pant, said hopefully India would have its own engine for the LCA by 1994.

The United States has shown for the first time to India its highly classified military facilities and new-generation weapon system, indicating its wish to further strengthen cooperation. What had been shown to India are the crown jewels in the U.S. weaponry, even unknown to American Army officers. [sentence as heard] Among the military facilities shown were the ballistic missile monitoring center. Mr Pant and his delegation members were also shown select aviation technology. They were shown how a cockpit will look in the next century, where the pilot will be accompanied by an electronico-pilot.

Sri Lanka Minister on Breaking 'Impasse'

BK0907092989 Hong Kong AFP in English 0832 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] New Delhi, July 9 (AFP)—India is ready to do all it can to improve relations with Sri Lanka in order to break the impasse over the presence of 45,000 Indian troops in the island, a visiting Sri Lankan minister said Sunday.

Rural and Industrial Development Minister S. Thondaman, a Tamil of Indian origin, told reporters here that he had also counselled the leaders of the two countries to stay calm and not let themselves become provoked.

"They are prepared to do everything possible" to improve bilateral relations, he said, referring to his separate discussions with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and External Affairs Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao on Saturday.

Mr Thondaman, who arrived here Wednesday to attend a trade union seminar, did not say what steps New Delhi was willing to take, but added that his meeting with Mr Gandhi had left him optimistic about improved Indo-Sri Lankan relations.

India and Sri Lanka have been locked in a major diplomatic row since New Delhi declined Colombo's request to withdraw the Indian troops deployed in the island's northeast by July 29.

New Delhi has said the troops, deployed under a 1987 bilateral pact which sought to end Tamil separatism on the island, would return only after Colombo devolves adequate autonomy to a Tamil provincial government which governs the island's Northeastern Province.

Mr Thondaman, who is the president of the Ceylon Workers Congress (CWC) Party, said it was necessary to create a climate of goodwill between India and Sri Lanka and that this could be achieved with some efforts.

"I am hopeful that since I know my president (Ranasinghe Premadasa) and following my discussions with Mr Gandhi, it (the situation) can be handled properly," he said.

"Events like this may come and go. What we need is friendship," he added.

Mr Thondaman, who is known to be pro-India, said if necessary the two countries could sign a new accord on how to withdraw the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF).

He denied there was a rift in the Sri Lankan cabinet over Mr Premadasa's demand for the Indians' withdrawal, but said the president's public call might have been made in "enthusiasm".

"I don't know what prompted our president to make that statement," the minister said, referring to the June 1 appeal in Colombo for the IPKF's pullout by July 29. "Maybe (he said it) in enthusiasm. It did not click."

The minister credited the IPKF for pushing the dominant Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) group into peace talks with Colombo by keeping up military pressure against its guerrillas.

The LTTE was the only Tamil rebel group to refuse to accept the 1987 accord and began fighting the IPKF in October 1987. Since then, more than 900 Indian soldiers and 2,000 suspected rebels have died in clashes between the two sides. In April the LTTE began peace talks with the Sri Lankan Government.

Spokesman: 'Nothing To Add' to Gandhi's Letters

BK0907155889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said in New Delhi today that the two letters of the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, to the Sri Lankan president, Mr Premadasa, are transparently clear on India's stand on the question of the withdrawal of Peacekeeping Forces [PKF] from the Northeastern Province of Sri Lanka. He told newsmen that the Indian Government has nothing to add to what is said in these letters.

The spokesman pointed out that the Sri Lankan president has chosen to place Mr Gandhi's letters on the table of the Sri Lankan parliament, which were later published by the press. He said it is not India's way of conducting diplomacy.

Official sources in New Delhi point out that India has been consistently advocating mutual consultations on matters relating to the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement from the very beginning. It has also stressed its keenness to withdraw the forces from Sri Lanka as situation in the Northeast improves.

Ministry Committee Adopts PKF Resolution

BK1007161789 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] The parliamentary consultative committee of the External Affairs Ministry, which met in New Delhi today, supported the government's stand on the withdrawal of the peacekeeping force [PKF] from Sri Lanka. They said that there could be no question of withdrawal on unilateral demand by one party to the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement. They were unanimous that there could be no such withdrawal without a concomitant implementation of the central aspects of the agreement. These include devolution of powers to the provincial government and setting up of a viable framework for government of the Northeast Province.

Briefing newsmen on the deliberations, an official spokesman said that there was general recognition among members that the Sri Lanka president, Mr Premadasa, in issuing an ultimatum for the withdrawal of the peacekeeping force had been prompted by domestic considerations. This unilateral demand was described by members as unreasonable. Many members said that by entering into an agreement India and Sri Lanka had jointly preempted the entry of a third power into the region. They also felt that it was not proper for Sri Lanka to have made a bilateral issue a matter of dispute and debate at the multilateral fora, such as the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] meetings.

Presiding over the meeting, the external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, emphasized that consultations with the Sri Lanka Government for a phased withdrawal of the PKF with increasing devolution of powers to the provincial government had already begun early this year.

The committee adopted a resolution praising the role of the peacekeeping force and placed on record its deep appreciation of the selfless and dedicated services rendered by the PKF in extremely difficult conditions.

Army Group Begins Siachen Talks With Pakistan

BK1007162889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] The army delegations of India and Pakistan began their 2-day discussions on Siachen in New Delhi today. The Indian delegation is led by Lieutenant General V.K.

Singh, director general of military operations, and the Pakistan team by Lieutenant General Imtiaz Warriach, director general joint staff. Earlier, the visiting Pakistani delegation called on the chief of the Army Staff, General V.N. Sharma.

Government To Settle Border Question With PRC

BK0807092189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Text] India and China have decided to take concrete steps to diversify and expand trade, scientific, and cultural relations. According to UNI [UNITED NEWS OF INDIA], both the countries have also expressed their firm determination for an early settlement of the border question. The news agency, quoting official sources, said the steps to further the process of normalization between the two countries were discussed at the just-concluded meeting of the Sino-Indian joint working group on border issues in Beijing. The two sides agreed that stress will be laid not on (?reflecting) the past, but to look to the future in the practical and realistic manner.

The foreign secretary, Mr S.K. Singh, who led the Indian side, is reported to be fully satisfied with the outcome of the talks. Mr Singh also held annual-level [as heard] consultations. Besides holding talks with his Chinese counterpart, he also met the Chinese foreign minister and the prime minister.

The sources said that the process India and China have initiated for the early settlement of the border dispute will contribute to all-round development of friendly relations and will necessitate frequent contacts at various levels.

The sources add that a favorable atmosphere needs to be created before the two countries can go far to resolve the border question. For this, the two sides have expressed their determination to maintain peace and tranquillity in all sectors of the Sino-Indian border, pending a final settlement.

The Chinese side has also appreciated the fresh efforts being made by Mr Rajiv Gandhi and Mrs Benazir Bhutto to create an understanding and to end the era of distrust and hostility between India and Pakistan.

Minister Rules Out 'New Jurisdiction' for CBI

BK0807034689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Text] The minister of state for home, Mr Chidambaram, has refuted the report in a section of the press on the proposal to extend the jurisdiction of the Central Bureau of Investigation [CBI]. He described the report as incorrect and speculative.

Asked to comment on the report, Mr Chidambaram asserted that there is no question of conferring any new jurisdiction on the CBI as it covers a large number of offenses even now. The idea of giving a statutory basis to the CBI is at a preliminary stage of examination. He also said it is unlikely to arrive at any conclusion or any legislation being introduced during the term of this Parliament.

Curfew Imposed in Leh Town Following Clashes

BK0807155989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, curfew has been imposed in Leh Town following yesterday's clashes between two groups of people. Three shops were burned and 20 persons injured by a violent mob in the Sabzimandi area. The trouble started after a minor scuffle between two students. The Army has been asked to stand by. The divisional commissioner of Kashmir told our correspondent that the Army today staged a flag march in the town. The overall situation is under control.

5 Civilians, 2 Terrorists Dead in Punjab, Haryana

BK0907090289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] Five persons, including two terrorists, have been killed in Punjab and Haryana since last night. In Haryana, a hardcore terrorist was killed in an encounter with the police in Gurgaon. One of his two accomplices committed suicide by consuming cyanide, while the other was nabbed by the police.

The Haryana police also arrested a fourth terrorist, Pagman Singh, considered to be an expert in manufacturing bombs, in Gurgaon last night.

In Punjab, terrorists shot dead two persons and seriously injured four, including a CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] jawan [soldier] in [words indistinct].

In Jullundur, terrorists shot dead the servant of a doctor.

Rajasthan Police Recover Arms Cache, Ammunition

BK0907160689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] The Rajasthan Police have recovered a big cache of arms and ammunition and explosive material from a border village in Sri Ganaganagar District. According to the director general of police, the cache included 4 AK-47 assault rifles, 2 sten guns, 9 high-explosive grenades, 20 mine detonators, and other explosive material.

The police believe that this material was brought from across the border.

Iran

Prime Minister Blames Blasts on Saudi Arabia

LD1107055389 Tehran IRNA in English 0540 GMT 11 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July, 11, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi blamed Riyadh for bomb explosions in Mecca and said they were proof that the Saudi rulers were unfit to administer the holy shrines.

"These explosions have taken place by the Hejaz (Saudi) regime to create a climate of suppression and repression," he said.

"They have done this to create a police state in Holy Mecca and prevent muslims from demonstrations against arrogant powers and Israel."

The prime minister was commenting on reports from the kingdom that two bombs had exploded Monday night in Mecca where 1.5 million Muslims are expected to observe the annual hajj ritual.

The SAUDI PRESS AGENCY said there were some injuries. It said one blast occured in a street leading to the holy mosque and the other on a bridge next to it.

"These actions show that Mecca and al-Madinah should be run by all Muslims of the world, not by those who consider 'Death to America' and 'Death to Israel' as slogans (demanding their) own death," Musavi said.

He said the massacre of more than 400 pilgrims in Mecca in 1987 would not be forgotten and Muslims would grow more aware of the importance of the hajj.

"The spread of awareness from the dimensions of the hajj and the subservience of the Saudi regime will lead to the liberation of the holy shrines from Israeli and American puppets," the prime minister added.

According to foreign agency reports security in Mecca and al-Madinah has been extremely tight this year with armed troops guarding many of the holy sites.

An intense battle of words has been raging between Tehran and Riyadh over the refusal to allow 150,000 Iranians to attend the hajj and turn the ritual into a massive arena for the expression of Islam's political power.

Speaker Addresses Majlis

LD1107070289 Tehran IRNA in English 0631 GMT 11 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 11, IRNA—Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani condemned Monday's night's bomb explosions in Mecca saying they were the unpardonable work of traitors.

"Whoever has committed this crime in Mecca, from wherever he may be, is condemned and this crime will never be forgiven," he said in an opening speech in Tuesday session of the Majlis.

He demanded an urgent investigation by the Saudis and clarification of details of the bombings "without any hypocracy or mal-intentions."

The SAUDI PRESS AGENCY said the bombs went off on a road leading to the holy mosque and on a bridge next to it, injuring a number of people. It did not give further details.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the bombings, on the anniversary of the massacre of more than 400 pilgrims, mostly Iranians, in Mecca in 1987, were no doubt carried out by American agents to blame Iran.

"Maybe the Saudis themselves did it to free themselves of the pressure from true Muslims of the world for depriving Iran from participating in the hajj," he said.

Earlier, Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi blamed Riyadh for the blasts which he said were aimed at creating a climate of fear in the holy city to prevent Muslims from demonstrating against world powers and Israel.

Rafsanjani, widely expected to win the July 28 presidential elections, said the late Imam Khomeyni's view on the sanctity of Mecca and al-Madinah was that such acts in the holy cities were strictly forbidden.

"Fortunately from the start...the imam with alertness chose a stand that the holy Mecca was a...safe place and any action of this sort over there was haram (forbidden) and treacherous," he said.

Muslims Urged To Liberate 2 Holy Shrines

LD0907141989 Tehran IRNA in English 1350 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] Zahedan, Sistan-Baluchestan Prov., July 9, IRNA—Head of Hajj and Endowment Organisation Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahdi Imami Jamarani Saturday urged Muslims to liberate the two holy shrines in Mecca and al-Madinah from the Saudi regime's claws.

He also accused Saudi rulers of creating obstructions on the way of Iranian pilgrims to prevent their participation in the annual Islamic ceremony.

Jamarani here to take part in an "Antipathy Towards Pagans" seminar, made the remarks in a televised interview. He considered unity of Muslims as the most effective way to campaign against infidels.

He also warned Saudi rulers to correct their behaviour to correspond with Islamic ideals.

Meanwhile, participants in the one-day seminar called for trial of those responsible for the massacre of over 400 hajj pilgrims in Mecca in 1987 by a competent international tribunal accepted by 'ulema of the Islamic countries.

In their 10-point resolution, they stressed the incompetency of the Saudi Government in administering the holy shrines.

They also denounced views of subservient theologians and preachers of "American Islam" who consider hajj rituals as an "empty ceremony."

They vowed not to go to Mecca to hold hajj rituals even for another decade if the Riyadh regime continued to ban the "Antipathy Towards Pagans" rallies.

A large number of leaders of Friday prayers, Shi'a and Sunni theologians of Sistan-Baluchestan, Khorasan and Hormuzgan Provinces attended the seminar.

Islamic Supervision Urged

LD1007210889 Tehran IRNA in English 2053 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 10, IRNA—The Saudi Government has denied visa to all intending pilgrims from Iran for a second year this summer to ensure that slogans will not be heard against the U.S. and other infidels, in Mecca this week.

Despite the precaution, however, the Saudis seem to be overtly worried about what the annual religious-political event may have in store for them, and their frequent assurances of having everything 'under control' seems to be an auto-suggestion betraying more a fear of unwelcome developments in Mecca rather than a straightforward assurance of what they like to call a 'peaceful hajj.'

Their repeated reference in the media to 'security measures' in Mecca and al-Madinah suggests their feeling of uncertainty about what is going to happen.

On July 31, 1987, in Mecca, Saudi police besieged thousands of pilgrims—Iranians and others—who were shouting symbolic outcries in condemnation of unbelievers (the superpowers and principally the U.S. and the Zionists) beating them with batons and mowing them down with firearms.

The final count at the end of the Wahhabi savagery that day was: Over 400 zuyuf-al-rahman (guests of God the merciful) killed and thousands of others injured, near the very precincts of the sacred Ka'bah where the shedding of even an animal's blood is prohibited.

Of course, the crime was part of the Wahhabi nature as history will testify to their sacking of Karbala (19th century) and their frequent mass killings in the peninsula, but what shocked the modern world was the time and place of massacre.

Ever since the Islamic revolution triumphed in Iran, the rallies in Mecca and al-Madinah—in response to Imam Khomeyni's call on the ummah—had become a grand spectacle of Muslim unity, and had played a vital role in awakening the conscience of the world's oppressed.

By calling on hajj pilgrims to renounce the devils and idols of the contemporary world, the leader of the Islamic revolution had made a symbolic revival of prophet Abraham's (PBUH) [peace be upon him] shattering of idols in ancient Babylon, and repudiation of the power-mongering pagans and unbelievers by Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) in 7th century Arabia.

Rallies 'in repudiation of the pagans of our time' were common in Mecca and al-Madinah since 1979 without any riotous incident until 1987.

But the unabashed Al-Sa'ud clan did not stop at that, and last year it denied visas to intending pilgrims from Iran on the pretext of 'accomodation problems' in Mecca. Moreover in what could be termed as a defiance of divine precepts, Riyadh demanded a guarantee from the Islamic Republic that pilgrims would not 'politicize' the hajj.

Strange indeed is the logic of the schismatic Wahhabis. The necessity to have a Saudi visa for fulfilling divine duties is not politics, but to discuss the problems besetting the ummah and seek deliverance from the infidels at the house of God is politics?

Imam Khomeyni's messages on the occasion of the annual hajj however, have invariably stressed the inherent union of politics and religion in Islam, and he referred to the bloodshed in Mecca in 1987 as 'a mass crime by the Saudi Government which cannot be washed out even with the waters of the heavenly fountain of Kowsar.'

Since then, the upstart Saudis whose dark desert past is no secret for the world, have launched a widespread propaganda in a bid to cleanse themselves of the dastardly crime against pilgrims in Mecca in the summer of 1987.

Neither the ruling clan represents the country it rules, nor has it the right of authority over the 'Haramayn-Sharifayn' [holy shrines]. Even other areas such as the oil rich Persian Gulf coast—whose wealth the regime squanders—was seized by 'Abd-al-'Aziz Ibn-Sa'ud from the local Muslim Arabs whom the Wahhabis have reduced to serfdom.

The Wahhabis are comparative newcomers to Islam's heartland, the Hijaz, which with British help was taken in the early 1930s, and it is not for no reason the Saudis fear slogans against global arrogance especially against the illicit Zionist regime.

Were not the ancestors of the Saudis, Jews? The testimony is borne out by Turkish and Egyptian authors who were contemporaries of the founder of Wahhabism, and the marauding chief of the Al-Sa'ud clan.

Books worth mentioning in this regard are 'Fitnat al Wahhabia' (published by the Istanbul-based Isik Kitabevi). 'Nasab-al-Saudieen' (Mohsin al-Amin—Beirut) and the latest magnum opus, the 'Tarikh al-Sa'ud' by Naser al-Sa'id from the Arabian Peninsula itself.

How long can these Zionist off-shoots hide behind an Islamic mask?

With growing cries the world over, the Saudis can now make good on their past by surrendering to justice. They still have a chance to avail of Islamic mercy by atoning for their bloodshed in Mecca and by agreeing to the administration of Mecca and al-Madinah by a council of righteous and God-fearing 'ulema of the Muslim world.

Nationwide Rallies Mark Hajj Massacre Anniversary

LD1007194189 Tehran IRNA in English 1904 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 10, IRNA—The Muslim people of Iran today turned out across the country to mark the 2nd anniversary of the Mecca massacre, demonstrate their wrath at the Al-Sa'ud dynasty and pay homage to their deceased leader Imam Khomeyni.

In Tehran, a large group of people held a gathering at Imam Hoseyn (peace be upon him) Square in the eastern sector of the city, chanting slogans against the Riyadh regime and calling for liberation of the haramayn sharifayn (holy sanctuaries) from Saudi rulers.

Addressing the gathering, Majlis Vice-Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahdi Karrubi termed Saudi rulers as "disqualified to administer the holy sanctuaries in Mecca and al-Madinah."

Karrubi, who led the Iranian pilgrims in 1987 when Saudi police cold-bloodedly massacred over 400 pilgrims, was interrupted several times by people chanting slogans such as "Mecca and al-Madinah should be liberated."

Karrubi said "the Al-Sa'ud must be punished for breaking the sanctity of Allah's house and massacring of pilgrims, and be stripped of the right to administer the haramayn sharifayn.

"What happened during the hajj pilgrimage two years ago was not a simple incident but rather a pre-calculated plot, designed by American and Israeli advisors, to prevent the spread of the Islamic revolution to other parts of the world."

In 1987, the Saudi police indiscriminately fired at people who were demonstrating their 'antipathy towards unbelievers', killing more than 400 pilgrims and wounding many others, mainly Iranians.

"Saudi rulers have closed Allah's house to us because we support the Muslim nations of Lebanon, Palestine and Afghanistan and chant death to the U.S. and death to Israel slogans," he said.

He made it clear that a genuine hajj is one in which pilgrims can demonstrate their antipathy towards pagans and infidels otherwise it would not be a duty ordained by god.

He described the setting of quotas for pilgrims as a "plot to divert the genuine ritual."

Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi lashed out at an Islamic Conference [Organization] (ICO) meeting held in Amman for approving the quota system and noted "a conference which serves imperialism and Zionism is in fact anti-Islamic."

"The Iranian people will cut the hands of those powers which downed their passenger planes, killed many of their youths and plundered their plentiful economic resources," Karrubi vowed.

Khamene'i on Western Culture, U.S. 'Terrorism'

LD1007131189 Tehran IRNA in English 1258 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 10, IRNA—The leader of the Islamic revolution Monday strongly attacked the U.S. and European governments for their export of corrupt Western culture, prostitution and addiction to the Third World countries.

Instead he described as "a divine duty" Iran's export of the Islamic culture to the four corners of the world. "We are proud of this," said Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i.

Speaking to a group of visitors from the holy city of Qom and Rafsanjan, Ayatollah Khamene'i pointed out "We are not afraid of exporting monotheism, promoting the prophets' school of thought and offering pure ways of resistance to other countries."

"The Western mass media, financed by the Zionists and run by tyrant, wicked and corrupt politicians are unable to prevent us, through propaganda, from exporting the genuine culture of Islam and concepts of the Islamic revolution."

Terming the U.S. Administration as "terrorist", Ayatollah Khamene'i said the American Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) was providing explosives and arms to counterrevolutionary groups across the world, to topple governments.

"Sabotage and terrorism are beneath the dignity of the Islamic revolution and such accusations suit only those who are leveling these charges (against us).

"Terrorism is the work of the United States which destroys aircraft with hundreds of passengers aboard... The Saudi regime which massacred in cold blood hundreds of pilgrims near Allah's safe house is a terrorist," he said.

The leader of the Islamic revolution noted that different types of corruption now threatening the human society originate from the export of corrupt Western culture and colonial civilization.

"Addiction plaguing the youths in many undeveloped, poor countries and also the consumer culture imposed on many Islamic states are other indications of the decadence of the exported corrupt Western culture," he said.

Elsewhere in his speech, President Khamane'i said the brave nation of Iran and Imam Khomeyni with his lofty personalities had proved to the world powers that they were unable to confront their firm will.

Ahmad Khomeyni Supports Speaker's Candidacy

LD1007123389 Tehran IRNA in English 1219 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 10, IRNA—The son of the late founder of the Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeyni, today called for massive participation of the people in the presidential elections and constitutional referendum to be held simultaneously on July 28.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Khomeyni also voiced support for Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's candidacy describing him as one of "the late imam's honest and loyal aides."

Referring to Hashemi-Rafsanjani's 25-year old record of struggles against global arrogance, Hojjat ol-Eslam Khomeyni said the Majlis speaker had always been a "pioneer in defending Islam."

He made the remarks in a speech to a large group of people who had called on him at Jamaran Mosque to condole the passing away of his father.

"With the presidential polls and referendum on the constitutional amendments ahead, you people should rally behind the leader and officials of the Islamic Republic, as you did when your great imam was alive," he said.

The imam's son urged the people to once again prove to arrogant powers that Islamic Iran was still a model for the Muslim world and world oppressed.

Presidential Candidate Disqualifications Viewed

LD1007134389 Tehran IRNA in English 1310 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 10, IRNA—Seventy seven aspiring candidates for presidential elections have been disqualified because they did not meet the basic qualifications for the post, said theologian member of the Guardian Council Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi here today.

The ayatollah who is also head of a committee in charge of superintending presidential elections due to be held on July 28, said evidence of a person's statesmanship and proven commitment to Islam are two pre-requisites for any candidate for the office. He said almost 70 aspiring candidates lacked the first qualification or if they met that requirement they did not have a reputation as a religious person.

The head of superintending committee for presidential elections said many of the aspiring candidates had decided to run for the elections simply to become a sort of celebrity for ambitious purposes in the future. He said the committee could not simply approve the application of just about everybody in order to please him or win international acclamation.

The Group of 77 candidates being dismissed there remain only two for the presidential office, namely Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and Dr 'Abbas Sheybani who has been a deputy at the Islamic Consultative Assembly for three consecutive terms since its foundation in 1980.

On July 28 people throughout the country are also to vote "yes" or "no" on amendments to the Constitution.

The official of the Council of Guardians also recommended that in the interest of better public knowledge in the remaining days the print and broadcast media deal more extensively with the amendments telling the people the whys and the wherefores of the changes in the Constitution text.

Criteria Explained

LD1007152389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Excerpts] This morning Mr Mohammad Yazdi, head of the central supervisory committee of the Council of Guardians for the fifth presidential elections, in a radio-television and press interview, replied to questions by reporters about how candidates were assessed for the post of president.

While describing the terms of the Constitution relating to qualifications required for the post of president, he explained why 77 applicants were deemed to lack the necessary qualifications and failed to get through, and said that after the necessary reviews and studies were carried out, it became clear that except for two candidates, whose names have been announced, the rest did not meet the necessary conditions for this position. He also described how the Council of Guardians assessed the eligibilities of the candidates. We drew your attention to the interview which our coleague conducted with the head of the fifth presidential elections' central supervisory committee of the Council of Guardians.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Mr Yazdi, bearing in mind that 79 persons put their names forward and applied for the post of president to the Council of Guardians, please tell us what the elections committee's general criteria were for determining the eligibility of these presidential candidates, how is it that only two out of these 79 were eligible?

[Yazdi] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Please allow me first to quote from the Constitution's articles on this subject. [passage omitted]

In the first instance, the president has to be chosen from among the country's political and religious figures—so the Constitution stipulates. The esteemed members of the Council of Guardians—both lay and religious members who are qualified on the law—say that the term political figures has a legal meaning, and this means that if someone has a managerial position in the departments or institutions of the state, this person cannot be entrusted with the management of the country unless he is known as a political figure among the public. Beside this, another condition is that the elected person has to be an efficient manager—that is he should have the ability to manage a country at the level of the presidency, to administer it and have foresight. So, in the first instance, the issues of being a political figure, a manager, and an efficient administrator are important, and when you consider these criteria, then you can easily understand why only a limited number of persons from among a large number who came forward were approved. [passage omitted]

I will say, in short, that, among these 79 persons who were introduced by the Ministry of Interior, the youngest was 22 years old and the oldest 73. Among these 79, many are single and many are married; some among them are ordinary workers: they have given their occupation as simple worker, driver. Even regarding qualifications, one is really amazed at the motivation of these kinds of people who come forward and register their names and waste the Interior Ministry's time and also waste the time of the Council of Guardians and the resources of the country. There is a gentleman who has given the level of his academic qualification as certificate from the Literacy Corps, and he is a few years over the age of 20 and lives in one of the small towns of our country where I myself was in exile at one time; he even gave my name as a reference, which greatly surprised me when I looked at his photograph—surprise at the fact that this person has come and wasted the time of the Ministry of Interior.

So we see that among these, there are ordinary workers, drivers, persons in the Armed Forces, clergymen, and even a preacher [mas'aleh-gu'i]. In his home town he is a cleric and has obtained a seminary education to the level of being qualified to explain. There are academics among them, teachers and university lecturers and even university students—they have written that they are, for instance, second or third or first year university students; there are lecturers and a few persons who have degrees and doctorates. But if we examine these applications, we have a clearer picture of the state and circumstances of the particular candidate, and we have to bear in mind the qualification I have mentioned which are required to manage a country.

There is a gentleman, for example—and I really wonder at some people—who left the country in 1979 and went to the United States, giving the reason for his exit from the country as, for example, seeing his children. He then returned to the country in 1987—that is, he left the country during the critical times of the revolution and he returned when relative tranquility prevailed, and he has now come and registered his name and written down his details—and when one looks at the specifics of his application, one wonders what cheek he has to come and register his name. Therefore, when we look at the figure of 79, people have a right to ask how we arrived at only approving two persons. I have tried to explain why and how people did not have the right qualifications. [passage omitted]

There were some persons who met, up to a point, the criteria for being political figures and efficient managers, yet they did not have adequate or appropriate experience. This is how we arrived at this limited number.

[Reporter] Thank you very much. [end recording]

Guards Pledge Allegiance to Khamene'i 10 Jul

LD1007184189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, addressed the commanders and responsible officials of the Guards Corps who came to pledge allegiance to his eminence today. He stressed the need for the overall strengthening of the corps. In the course of this meeting, Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abdollah Nuri, the representative of the velayat-e faqih [rule of the jurisconsult] offered condolences to His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i on the heart-rending demise of the imam of the ummah and declared the allegeinace of the corps and mobilization forces and commanders and responsible officials of the corps with the leader of the Muslims. In his remarks, Hojjat ol-Eslam Nuri said: We shall fight until our last dying breath for the realization of aspirations and shall continue our jihad until the implementation of sacred objectives of the revolution.

Afterward, Mohsen Reza'i, the commander in chief of the Guard Corps, reiterated the Corps' commitment and obedience to the orders of the great leader and added: We hope that with the help of the sacred wrath in our hearts against the enemies, we will be able to strive more than ever before, alongside the leader of the Muslims, to please the great soul of our dear imam.

In return, our country's leader, offered condolences to the audience on the heavenly ascent of the great leader of Islam, Imam Khomeyni. In a detailed speech, while paying tribute to the great leader of the revolution for his outstanding personality, he graciously added that the Guards brothers, because of their firm resolve and sincerity toward the imam of the ummah, are the vanguards who can fill the vacuum left by the loss of the great leader of the revolution. The leader of the Muslims referred to the corps as the important power which defends the revolution, and graciously added: As long as the Islamic revolution remains in the body of the Islamic Republic as its soul, we should never imagine that hostility and intimidation against us will stop. It is therefore necessary to remain alert to our permanent defense, with a feeling of serving permanently in the trench.

The commander in chief of the Armed Forces referred to the decisive statement of his holiness the imam, may his dust be sanctified, to the effect that the army and the corps, as two powerful arms of the revolution, should remain side by side. He stressed the need to boost further the lesson of kindness, fraternity, and friendship in the Army and in the Corps.

In another part of his remarks, the leader of the Islamic revolution reiterated the need to strengthening the Corps as a reliable and totally effective power. He graciously said: The Corps must be strengthened as much as possible in its spiritual and intellectual structure, administrative and military organization, command hierarchy, strong management and scientific, logistic, and combat capability, and this matter should become a basis for activity.

Referring to the extensive presence of the committed and revolutionary forces in the Corps, his eminence referred to them as the symbols of self-sacrifice, honesty, and sincereity.

In conclusion, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i stated that the strength and prestige of the Corps depend on the spiritual nature of this revolutionary organ. He referred to the senitivity and importance of the role of the clergy brothers in the Guards Corps, and added that their presence in meeting the spiritual needs of the Corps brothers is an essential matter.

During the audience, in addition to the representative of the supreme jurisconsult and the commander in chief of the Guards Corps, the minister and commanders of the three units of the corps, the officials of the leadership representative bureaus, the commanders of the combat units and deputy commanders of the corps were also present.

Foreign Minister Holds Talks With Lebanon's Birri

LD1007195989 Tehran IRNA in English 1840 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 10, IRNA—Leader of Lebanon's Amal Movement Nabih Birri conferred with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here today.

"Imam Musa Sadr's goal of establishing the Amal Movement was struggle and resistance against the Zionist regime," Birri told Velayati in reference to Amal's history, and its fundamental link with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Amal means hope in Arabic, and its founder the dynamic Imam Musa Sadr disappeared under mysterious circumstances on the eve of the triumph of the Islamic revolution.

Birri said Amal's relations with the Islamic Republic is ideological, "we hope that we would achieve the holy goals of Imam Khomeyni under the leadership of Ayatollah Khamene'i."

Iranian and Lebanese people have firm ties, and presence of a delegation from Amal Movement in Tehran in the present circumstances would help solve the Lebanese crisis, Velayati responded.

"We back your struggle against the aggressive Zionist regime, and your campaign to correct the existing cruel system in Lebanon," he told Birri.

He expressed hope that a system of government, backed by the Muslim people would come to power in Lebanon in the light of the unity of Islamic and national forces.

Birri is currently here to participate in the 40th-day ceremony of the founder of the great leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni, to be held at his shrine in Behesht-e Zahra Thursday.

Meets Jibril, Abu Musa

LD1007201489 Tehran IRNA in English 1923 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 10, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati today held separate talks with a delegation from Lebanon's Hizballah, and two Palestinian leaders.

The visitors, members of Hizballah's leadership council, leader of the People's Front for Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) Ahmad Jibril, and leader of the Palestine National Salvation Front Colonel Abu Musa, all condoled the passing away of the founder of the Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeyni and renew allegiance to the new leader of the Islamic Republic Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i.

They also vowed to continue their struggles until the late Imam's goals of liberating Palestine and flying the flag of Islam throughout the world, are achieved.

In response, Velayati pledged Iran's support for the struggles of Lebanese and Palestinian Muslims against arrogant, Zionist and reactionary plots.

The Hizballah delegation and the Palestinian leaders are here to participate in a ceremony to be held here Thursday to mark the 40th day of Imam Khomeyni's demise.

Pakistan

Spokesman Confirms Gandhi's 16 Jul Visit

BK1007134289 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] The prime ministers of Pakistan and India will have wide-ranging discussions on the entire gamut of bilateral relations in Islamabad next week. A Foreign Office spokesman told newsmen in Islamabad this afternoon that the discussions would take place during the 2-day visit of Mr Rajiv Gandhi to Pakistan starting on Sunday next [16 July] at the invitation of Ms Benazir Bhutto. The visit will be marked by the third meeting of the Indo-Pakistan Joint Ministerial Commission in Islamabad. The foreign ministers of the two countries, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and Mr Narasimha Rao, will (?lead) their respective delegations at the 2-day meeting which is being held in accordance with an agreement reached between the prime ministers of Pakistan and India at their meeting in Islamabad last December.

Radio Pakistan's diplomatic representative says new proposals would be discussed in the meeting to expand relations and cooperation on the basis of equality, common interest and mutual benefit. Ms Benazir Bhutto and Mr Rajiv Gandhi will hold a joint news conference before the departure of the Indian prime minister on Monday next.

Further on Spokesman's Comments

BK1007164889 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Asked whether the two countries are likely to sign an agreement on the Siachen issue, the spokesman pointed out that ongoing talks of the military commanders in New Delhi are scheduled to be completed tomorrow. The report of their talks would be (?given) to the two governments before the meeting between the prime ministers take place.

The third meeting of the Indo-Pakistan joint ministerial commission begins in Islamabad on the 18th of this month. Foreign ministers of the two countries will lead their delegations.

Our diplomatic representative says new programs and proposals would be discussed to expand relations and cooperation on the basis of equality, common interest, and mutual benefit. This would be preceded by meetings of the four subcommissions to be held in Islamabad on Monday next.

The Foreign Office spokesman, when asked whether the two foreign ministers would discuss the Sri Lankan demand for withdrawal of Indian troops, said the matter could come up for discussion. He said the secretary general of SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] had been authorized to undertake a visit to Sri Lanka and explain certain administrative and organizational problems and try to get them resolved. A special envoy of Sri Lanka is expected to visit Pakistan shortly and the two sides will see how to move forward. Pakistan is also in touch with other countries of the SAARC. He said President Premadasa had conveyed to Pakistan that Sri Lanka remains committed to the ideals of SAARC and promotion of economic cooperation among the member countries.

Government 'Helpless' Against Indian Missile Attack

BK0207122889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1215 GMT 2 Jul 89

[Text] Karachi, Pakistan, July 2 (AFP)—Pakistan would be helpless against a Indian missile attack, Minister of State for Defence Ghulam Sarwar Cheema has warned, while criticizing New Delhi's "hegemonistic designs."

"We do not have the necessary antidote to combat a missile attack," the minister admitted when asked about Pakistan's preparedness against neighboring India's recently tested "Agni" intermediate-range ballistic missile.

Mr. Cheema told businessmen at the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry Saturday that special radar and anti-missile systems required for effective defence against a missile attack were "prohibitively expensive."

He added that the Pakistani Government was cognizant of the matter and was doing everything possible "within our economic constraints" to evolve an effective defence system.

The minister said that the successful testing by India last month of the "Agni" revealed New Delhi's "hegemonistic designs" in the region.

India wanted to "control an area stretching from Australia and New Zealand up to Suez in west Asia," Mr. Cheema said. Pakistan has fought three wars with India since 1947.

He said that the government was for the first time considering private sector participation in defence production.

The minister called upon the Pakistani business community to come forward with proposals for starting joint ventures with the Defence Ministry for manufacturing defence equipment.

Mr. Cheema assured businessmen of a guaranteed market for their products, adding that the government would also help them in acquiring technology transfer and export of defence production.

Yunus Bandukda, president of the Karachi chamber, welcomed the government offer and said the private sector would keenly look forward to such prospects.

Mr. Cheema told the National Assembly Thursday that Pakistan would try to acquire a missile similar to India's. Islamabad has already test fired two missiles, one with a range of 300 kilometers (180 miles).

But he also warned that the "Agni"—with a maximum expected range of 2,500 kilometers (1,500 miles) and a pay load capacity of 1,000 kilograms (2,200 pounds)—cound carry both conventional and nuclear warheads.

Ministry Reviewing Kabul's Request on Helicopters
BK1007142189 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] The Kabul regime has requested that Pakistan return the two [Afghan] helicopters that landed in Pakistan a few days ago. The Defense Ministry is reviewing this issue.

Senate Chairman's News Conference on PRC Visit
BK0807112389 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Text] The Chinese leaders have a strong desire to further cement the traditionally excellent relations between Pakistan and China. This was stated by the Senate chairman, Mr Wasim Sajjad, at a news conference in Islamabad today on his return from China where he had led a 10-member parliamentary delegation. The Senate chairman said his talks with Chinese leaders had reflected the trust and confidence the Chinese leadership has in the people and leadership of Pakistan. He said the Chinese leadership was appreciative of Pakistan's principled stand on Afghanistan and would continue to support the Pakistani Government on the issue.

1 Killed, 2 Policemen Injured in Karachi Shooting
BK1007170289 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] APP [ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN] quoting police said a child was killed and two policemen injured in a shoot-out at Seedhi Baluch Road in (?rural) area in Karachi today. Police claim that ten persons opened fire on police patrolling the area. The Baluch Ittehad Tehrik [Baluch Solidarity Movement] had given a strike call for today to press their demand for arrest of the killers of one of its workers.

Curfew Imposed
BK1107031089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 11 Jul 89

[Text] Five people were killed and ten others injured in stray incidents of violence in the Lyari area of Karachi yesterday. The injured included two policemen. A press note issued by the district magistrate of Karachi-South says that a political organization had called for a general strike yesterday demanding the arrest of culprits involved in murder on the 16th of last month. Although the culprits were arrested 2 days ago, the strike was observed. During the strike, groups of people fired on police patrol parties from nearby narrow streets. They also disrupted traffic by burning tires and throwing stones. Later, a group of people attacked another group in Baghdadi police station jurisdiction; firearms were used. Five people were killed in the shooting. Police have made many arrests and law enforcement agencies are patrolling affected areas. Curfew has been imposed as a precautionary measure in some areas of Baghdadi and (Chowkiwara) police stations to protect people's life and property.

Sri Lanka

LTTE Ready To Join Political Mainstream, Disarm
BK1107030489 Hong Kong AFP in English 0246 GMT 11 Jul 89

[By Amal Jayasinghe]

[Text] Colombo, July 11 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's dominant Tamil militant group said it is prepared to enter the democratic mainstream, but warned that India's refusal to withdraw troops from the island may delay a political settlement.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said it had assured President Ranasinghe Premadasa of its willingness to join mainstream politics ending a 17-year-old guerrilla campaign against the government.

LTTE spokesman Anton Balasingam said the group was willing to discuss the "dis-possesion" of arms held by them, but india's military presence in the island's northeast was a hindrance to resolving the dragging ethnic conflict.

Mr. Balasingam, who is also the main theoretician for the separatist Tiger guerrillas, said the group's current peace talks with Colombo were linked to the early withdrawal of the Indian Peacekeeping Force (IPKF).

Even as talks continued here, LTTE fighters are currently waging a bloody bush war against the IPKF in the island's northeast. The IPKF was deployed in Sri Lanka under a July 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord.

As talks between the LTTE and the government progressed, Mr. Premadasa on June 1 jolted New Delhi by calling for the withdrawal of the IPKF by July 29, the second anniversary of the peace deal which the LTTE has rejected.

New Delhi has rejected the deadline set by Colombo, attached conditions for the withdrawal and sought clarifications on a call by Mr. Premadasa to halt hostile Indian military attacks against the LTTE.

"Our peace effort and our attempt to find a political solution is seriously hampered by India's reluctance to effect an early withdrawal (of the IPKF)," Mr. Balasingam said in an interview with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE here Monday.

He said the group would cooperate fully with Colombo in its diplomatic efforts to secure the IPKF pullout and discounted reports that Tiger fighters would wipe out rival rebels once the foreign army leaves.

"Now we are fighting a formidable army of 70,000 soldiers and five other (rival) fighting groups. If someone says drop your arms, then we will get wiped out. This is not the time to talk about disarming," Mr. Balasingam said.

But he said the group was willing to negotiate with Colombo the "dis-possession" of weapons held by the LTTE as rival groups renounce violence.

"What we are saying to other groups, is to renounce violence and prepare to go for a general election process and let the people decide the destiny of all (rebel) groups," he said.

In a surprise move, the LTTE accepted an offer for talks. Mr. Balasingam arrived here from his London office on April 26 and was later joined by LTTE political activists led by Yogaratnam Yogi, who were airlifted from a northern hideout.

Once the IPKF leaves, Mr. Balasingam said there would be an improvement in the unrest in the island's south where Sinhalese militants have made the Indian presence its main platform for anti-government agitation.

But Mr. Balasingam declined to comment on the activities of the Sinhalese Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP or People's Liberation Front) which is also opposed to the peace accord.

The LTTE delegation was accomodated at a deluxe hotel here and has been provided tight security by the special task force commandos who were once bitter rivals of the LTTE.

Mr. Balasingam says it is not ironic that the Sri Lankan forces were providing security to them.

"We are at peace with the Sri Lankan security forces," he said.

"It is the trend all over the world, where demilitarisation and de-escalation of violence is taking place. Countries are withdrawing their troops deployed in other countries. Like Soviet troops from Afganistan," he said, adding that "only India has failed to grasp the international trends."

Even if India failed to take back its troops from Sri Lanka, the LTTE would stand by President Premadasa, for whom the group had a "great admiration," Mr. Balasingam said.

Mr. Premadasa is a critic of the 1987 accord signed between his predecessor, Junius Jayewardene, and Indian Premier Rajiv Gandhi and he had vowed to send the IPKF back during his election campaign last year.

More than 5,000 Sri Lankans and nearly 1,000 Indian soldiers have died since New Delhi launched a major offensive to disarm the LTTE in October 1987.

1,000 'Suspected Subversives' Questioned

BK1107111589 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1045 GMT 11 Jul 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 11 July (LANKAPUVATH)—On information received from the public, the security forces have recovered over 5,000 identity cards from various parts of the island. In most places, the ID cards had been kept for safe keeping, states a government communique issued today.

The communique further states, in combing out operations, the security forces have recovered from subversive hideouts, claymore type mines, cartridges, repeater shot guns, air rifles, galkatas [locally made pistols], army and airforce uniforms, belts used for holding S.G. [shot gun] cartridges, rifles, double barrel guns.

In the Hungama area in the south, the security forces raided a hideout and recovered an S.Sb [expansion unknown] transmitter radio.

Within the last 48 hours about a thousand suspected subversives have been taken in for questioning in Badulla, Kandy, Moneragala and Colombo. In some instances, the suspected subversives had been in possession of antigovernment literature.